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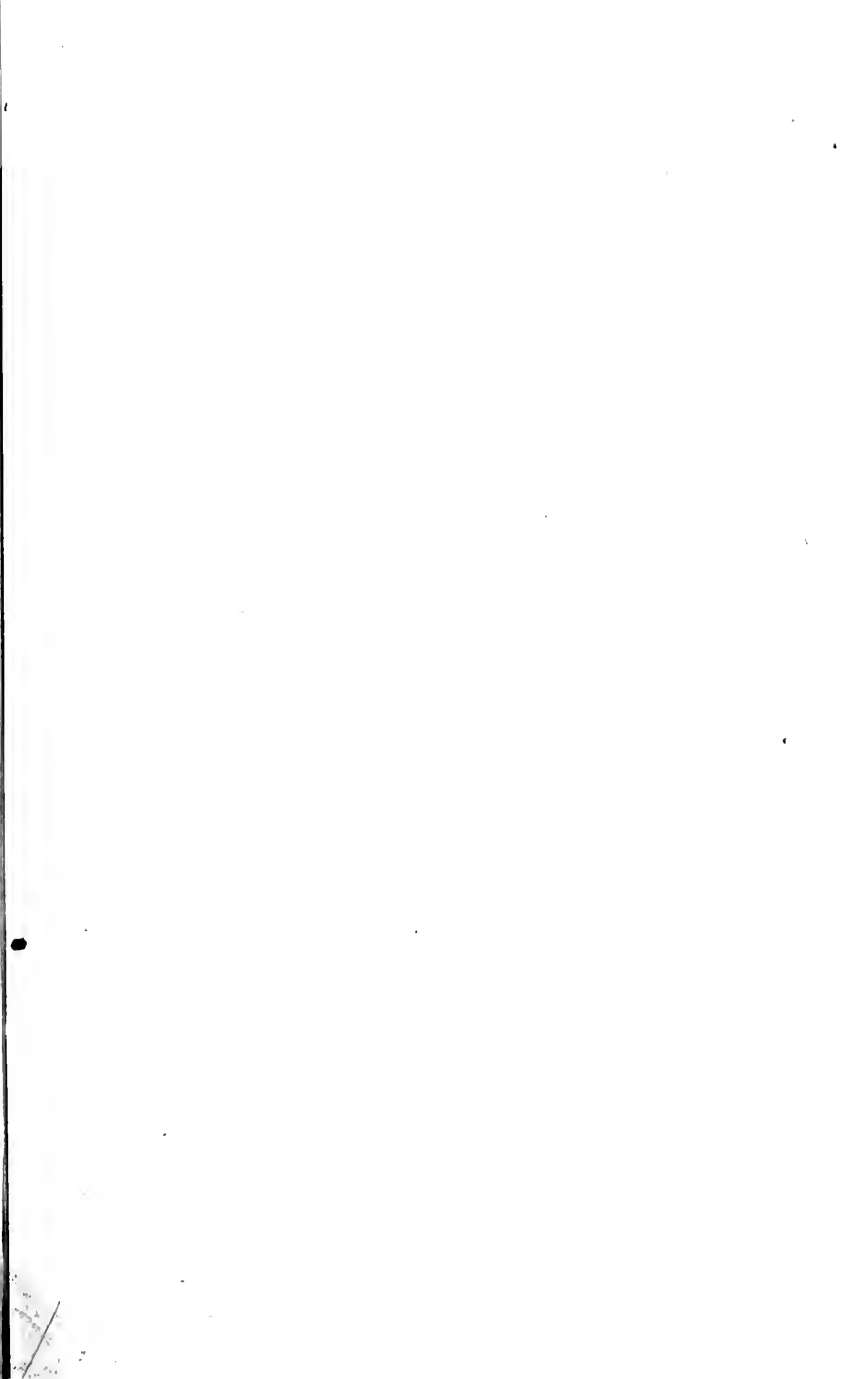
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BURCHETT, J. - Memoirs of transactions at sea during the war with France; 1688-'97. London, J. Nutt, 1703;(XLIV)-408 pp.; contemp. calf; binding rubbed, back slightly dam.; wormhole in lower margins of title and first 6 leaves, not affecting any text; a few stains.

Relation of the actions of the combined English-Dutch fleets during the war with France. A very interesting work, several chapters are dealing with the proceedings of the squadrons in the West Indies and Newfoundland, the attempts made at land in those parts, a. o. the plunder of Carthagena, etc.



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MEMOIRS

OF

Transactions at S E A

DURING THE

WAR with *FRANCE*;

Beginning in 1688,

AND

Ending in 1697.

Most humbly Dedicated to

His Royal Highness Prince GEORGE
of DENMARK, Lord High Admiral
of England and Ireland, and of all
Her Majesty's Plantations, and Ge-
neralissimo of all Her Majesty's For-
ces, &c.

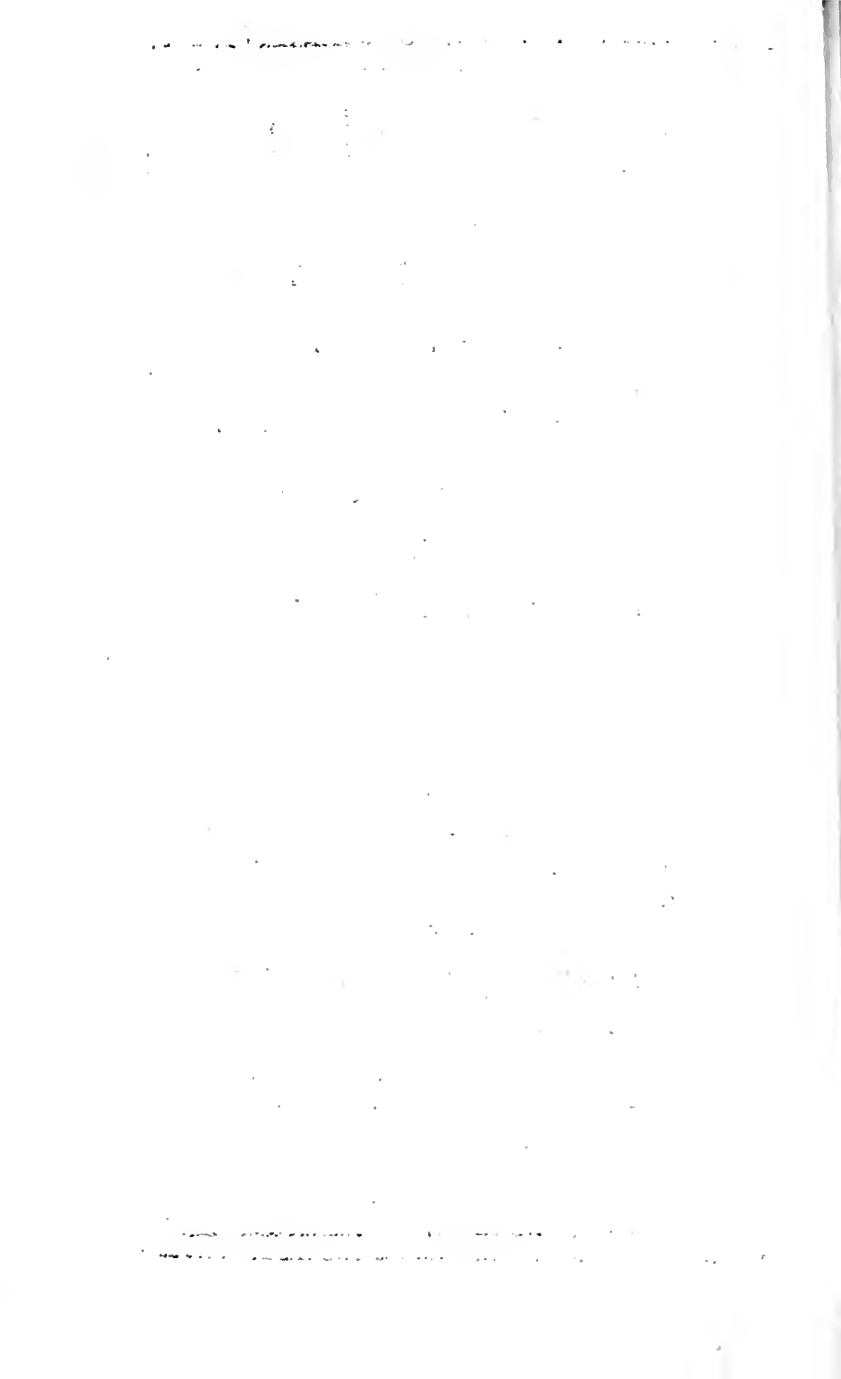
BY

JOSIAH BURCHETT Esq;

Secretary to the Admiralty.

L O N D O N :

Sold by John Natt near Stationers-hall, 1703.



Admiralty-Office,

22^o Apr. 1703.

May it please Your
ROYAL HIGHNESS,

HAVING employed most
of those few Hours
which I could bor-
row from Publick Busineis, on
the following Account of *Trans-*
actions at Sea, during the last

The Epistle Dedicatory.

War with France, I do, with all Humility, presume to put it into the World under the Protection of Your ROYAL HIGHNESS, who has, at this time of equal Action, the Management of that no less difficult than important Affair of the *Royal Navy* of this Kingdom.

I am not without Hopes, Royal SIR, that (according to Your known Goodness) You will be pleas'd to Accept this small Offering, from one who has not only the Honour to be Employ'd in Your Service, but of having already received Marks of Your Princely Favour : Not but that I am truly sensible, a Grace, like this, will infinitely too much Reward

The Epistle Dedicatory.

ward me, for the Pains I have taken to Preserve to This, and Future Ages, what otherwise might, in little time, have escaped the Memory, even of those who were principally concerned.

I should not have undertaken a Work of this Nature, had there been any Prospect of It's being Communicated by a more able Pen ; but finding no Steps made towards it, and I having not only been Personally in great part of the Transactions which are here Treated of, but the Station wherein I have many Years serv'd, enabling me to Inspect the Necessary Papers and Records, I do, for those Reasons, humbly hope that I may, in

The Epistle Dedicatory.

some measure, be Excused for
my Presumption.

That Your Highness may En-
joy a Long and Happy Life, with
Her Majesty, Your Royal Con-
sort, is the hearty Prayers of

(*May it please Your*
ROYAL HIGHNESS)

Your Highness's most Dutiful,
and most Obedient Servant,

J. Burchett.

TO THE READER.

WHEN I undertook the following Work, it was not with Design to make it Publick, but rather to Refresh my own Memory, when any thing contain'd therein might have escap'd it's Reach; but being earnestly press'd by some Friends to permit It's appearing Abroad, I did, at last, comply, tho' not without some Unwillingness, being but too sensible, that it ought to have come forth in a more advantageous Dress, and that if I had more Time to bestow on it, I yet wanted a Capacity to render it so acceptable as I could wish. However, if, as it is, it does fortunately give some Satisfaction, I shall (since I have set no other Mark in view) think those Hours very well employ'd, which I borrowed, even from what were absolutely necessary for Rest.

It must not be expected that the following Sheets are a Compleat History of the Naval-

To the Reader.

War with France, with all it's various Circumstances, as well of State as otherwise; but rather what it was really intended, An Account, somewhat in the Nature of a Journal, of Remarkable Transactions at Sea, during that no less Great than Long War; and, to render the Whole the more intelligible, I have taken care to set down every Service entire by it self.

I believe our Ancestors did not conceive that France would ever have arrived to such a degree of Strength at Sea, as to be able to enter the Lists with England, and the United Provinces; for as it appears by the Annals of former Times, that that Nation had no great Reason to Value it self in this Particular, so looking no farther back than the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, it will be found that the Naval Force of France was very inconsiderable, compared with what Our's then was; and that, even then, they did not so much as lay the Foundation of a Ship of War, without giving Her Majesty a Satisfactory Reason for their so doing.

True it is, that our Royal Navy was in those Times very small, compared with what it now is, as indeed it was even at the Restauration of King Charles the Second; but some time after that it began to swell, (particularly by the Parliament's giving Money

To the Reader.

Money at once to build 30 Capital Ships) and so it has, by degrees, come to it's present Bulk.

When we began to encrease our Force, the French, and the Dutch too, thought it necessary to augment their's; and as the Applications of the former were indeed very Extraordinary, so possibly were the Helps they met with therein not Inconsiderable.

The present Magnitude of our Navy does constantly furnish (especially in time of Action) not only so much, but such Variety of Business, that it is almost next to an Impossibility for any one Man, even in the Course of a long Life, to make himself Master of it; and therefore it is divided into many Branches or Offices, all subservient to the Lord High Admiral of England, and next, and immediately under him, the Principal Officers and Commissioners of the Navy, who have in a more particular manner the Care of the Yards, Building and Repairing of Ships, Contracting for Naval Stores, Payment of the aforesaid Yards and Ships, &c.

That the Reader may know what great Fleets this Nation was obliged, or at least did think necessary, to set forth almost every Year during the last War, I have hereafter inserted not only the several Rates of the Ships, but also the Number of each Rate, Viz.

Rate.

To the Reader.

Rate.	Number.
1 _____	6
2 _____	8
3 _____	36
4 _____	51
5 _____	37
6 _____	22
Fireships _____	19
	<hr/>
	179

And this even exclusive of Hospital Ships, Yachts, Sloops, Bomb-Vessels, Storeships, Brigantines, and all other small, but necessary, Imbarcations for the Conveniency and Service of a Grand Fleet.

But I would not have it understood, that all these Ships and Vessels were, at any time, employed in a Body. No; many of them were on Services abroad; others as Convoys to particular Trades; while no small Number of the lesser sort were made use of as Cruizers to and fro in the Chanel, and elsewhere, to secure our Merchant Ships and Vessels from the Enemy's small Frigats, and Privateers, with which (especially the latter) they made it their Business to infest our Coasts.

The greatest Number of Ships and Vessels in Pay in one Year, (exclusive of Tenders) during the whole Time of the last War,

To the Reader.

War was 229 ; and, according to their respective Complements of Men, they required about 45900, and had mounted in them 8396 Guns, of which Number 6360 were on board Ships from the First to the Fourth Rate, inclusive ; but then it must be understood, that those employed in the West Indies are reckoned to the middle Number of Men and Guns allowed them, otherwise both the one and the other would have amounted to considerably more than it's now calculated at. As for the Body of the English Fleet, it seldom or never exceeded 52 Ships of the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Rates, (and of the latter there was seldom many) which with the Dutch Quota, commonly about 5 to 8, made upwards of 80 proper for the Line of Battel.

But altho' the whole Number of Men were, or ought to have been employed, at least in the Summer Months, yet did it often fall short ; for as they were in the Winter Season very considerably reduced, by the laying up most of the First and Second Rates, so by the Fleet's not being so well Mann'd, as to be in a Condition to go to Sea before the latter end of April, or the beginning of May, it cannot be reckoned that the whole Number of Men in Sea-Pay, one Month with another, did ever exceed 40000 the Year round, if it swell'd so high.

To the Reader.

It is well known, that France had in a Body one Year the last War, if not two, upwards of 80 Ships of the Line of Bat-tel: And it was as obvious, that all which England and Holland could, or at least did do, was timely to set forth a Strength (with regard to many other Services that called for Shipping) very little, if any thing, superior to them; but then it must be observed, that the great Number of Men which our Trade (not much less than in actual Peace) required, was no little Hindrance to the Manning the Navy, so as to enable It to be early at Sea,

The French King has many Advantages, which we have not, towards Manning his Fleet; for as his Trade is very little, compared with our's, to draw away his Seamen when the Publick Service requires them; so does he, by his Absolute Power, oblige all to appear, on pain of Death, or grievous Punishments; whereas (I am sorry to say it) the English Seamen, even when the Trade is stopt, have too often shelter'd themselves, in hopes of being more advantageously Entertain'd by the Merchants when their Ships have liberty to proceed.

Nor does France want very considerable Helps from her Numerous Privateers; for (as I am credibly informed) that Monarch obliges them to take on board, and breed up, Numbers of Land-men, and to return into Port,

To the Reader.

Port, upon occasion, and deliver up their whole Complements at certain limited Times, and then to supply themselves again. Nay, a yet farther Advantage he has, by placing on board each of his Ships of War, as part of their allotted Number, (and which commonly exceeds, both in Officers and Men, what is allow'd to our Ships) at least a Third Part Soldiers.

We had, indeed, some part of the last War several Marine Regiments, designed as a Nursery for Scamen; but for want of their being put at first on a good Foot, they did, by degrees, dwindle away, and were at length wholly laid aside: A Fate that (for my Country's sake) I hope will not attend those Six Regiments now allotted for Sea-Service: Nor can it well happen, if Care be taken to render them easy to others, as well as to themselves; that is to say, by Paying and Cloathing them well, and enabling the Officers from time to time to Recruit, as their Men shall die, or be otherwise missing, without putting them to those Straights, not only in these, but many other Particulars, which they were not able to get over the last War.

The Advantages are many which may accrue to the Publick Service, by keeping these Regiments entire. They will not only be of great Use in the Fleet, but be also very Serviceable in any Attempts on Shore; and
when

To the Reader.

when they are not so employed, they may be Quartered near the Principal Dock-Yards, and not only work therein, upon occasion, at very reasonable Rates over and above their Common Daily Pay, but do Duty by Night, as well as in the Day-time, if required, whereby the usual Charge of Watchmen will be saved, and the Magazines, and Ships lying up, be much more secure from Imbezement, or Treachery. And further, when there shall be occasion to send Ships on any immediate Service from any Port where these Marines are quartered, how soon may the said Ships, if in want of Men, as well as Cruizers under those Circumstances, be supplied ?

In fine, As all the Advantages which may arise from these Regiments, by good Management, cannot at present occur ; so may any one foresee that they will be of little use, unless the necessary Care be taken to enable their Officers to do their Parts, and that then the said Officers take the like Care, in all respects, of their Men.

Marine Regiments are what almost all Nations find necessary, that have a Naval-Force ; and even in the last Year's Expedition, we experienced the Usefulness of them ; as we did at the beginning of this present Year, when the Service required the speedy dispatching some Ships of War from Portsmouth.

Having

To the Reader.

Having now mention'd some of the Advantages which the French King has towards Manning his Navy, I shall, in the next place, observe something concerning the Methods we take therein; and,

1. It hath been Customary, at the beginning of each Year, and it is still the Practice, to Promise, by Proclamation, a Bounty to all Seamen, and Able-body'd Landmen, who come into the Service by a certain Time, which is frequently Two Months Pay, and seldom more. This does, indeed, prevail upon many, but yet great Numbers do conceal themselves until the Fleet is at Sea, and others lurk about even till the Time limited for such Bounty is near expired, which does in no little measure prevent the Fleet's being in a Readiness for an early Campaign.
2. As the Seamen are thus encouraged to Enter Voluntarily, so is there another Method taken to Compell them to it; and that is, Pressing, by Warrants from the Lord High Admiral to the Captains, and by them assigned to their several Lieutenants: And to render this the more Effectual, Vessels are purposely hired into the Service, to proceed from Place to Place with those Officers

To the Reader.

Officers and their Press-Gangs, not only to receive Volunteers, but to Impress what Men they can light on : And the Vice-Admirals of the several Counties were not long since Empower'd to Press, but that is at present discontinued, because it was judged to be attended with more Trouble and Charge, than any Real Advantage to the Publick Service, tho' I do incline to believe, that it will hereafter be thought necessary, otherwise I cannot foresee how the Sailers will either be stopt from running into the Inland Counties, or, when there, be brought back to the Fleet.

As the Success of the aforesaid Officers, with their Tenders and Press-Gangs, hath been Uncertain, so it is always very Expensive ; for altho' it often happens that some of them do luckily get good Numbers of Men, yet, on the other hand, many have been a considerable time employed to little or no purpose. It does therefore require the most serious Consideration, what Methods may be for the future taken, for the more speedy and effectual Manning the Fleet, since it is a Matter of the greatest Consequence to the Nation ; and indeed it were much to be wish'd, as to one Particular, That the Civil Magistrates in the Port-Towns,

To the Reader.

Towns, as well as in the Inland Counties, would exert themselves more than some of them have hitherto done, and that instead of sheltering straggling Seamen, or at least winking thereat, they would so far Contribute to the Good of their Country, and even themselves, as to secure and send all such Men to the Fleet. This would in little time put a Stop to the Custom the Sailors have got of running into the Country, when there is greatest Occasion for them; for when they find that Sanctuary fails them, they will, with greater Readiness, betake themselves to the Publick Service. But I am in hopes, since Care is taken to make them easy, as to their Pay and other Particulars, there will be no occasion to deal roughly with them, but that they will, for the future, rather so behave themselves, that not only their Country-men, but the rest of the World may be convinced, an English Seaman does still retain his wonted Zeal and Bravery.

As the Government does, and ought to expect from the Sailors the most strict Compliance with their Duty, so are there, on the other hand, several Things which should be very carefully perform'd with respect to them: As,

1. The looking well after them, when Wounded, or Sick, at Sea, and when
a they

To the Reader.

they are put on Shore under those Circumstances. To this end there are Physicians in the Fleet, and with suitable Salaries, but whether the present Allowance of One to each Squadron may be sufficient, especially in the West Indies, is not unworthy Consideration; for certain it is, that there cannot be too much Care taken to preserve a Race of Men so absolutely necessary for the Good of our Country.

This I think I may venture to say, That many of the Chirurgeons, but more especially their Mates, which are employ'd in the Fleet, are not altogether so well Qualify'd as they ought to be; and yet the poor Men are forc'd to depend on their Skill, not only in Chirurgery, but Physick also, in the Absence of a Physician.

Whether the present Allowance is sufficient to invite Knowing Men to undertake this Employment (considering they are in Pay no longer than the Ships they serve in) I submit to Judgment, and shall only add, That if it is not, I do heartily wish it was made so, since those Men in the Ships that are promiscuously Employ'd both at Home and Abroad, do, when they hap-

To the Reader.

happen to be Sick or Wounded, Stand or Fall, in a great measure, by their Administration to them; and as I have some Reason to doubt, whether there are many of the Ablest of our Sea-Chirurgeons, Qualify'd to judge Nicely of many Distempers incident to a Sailer, so must they, if not so Qualify'd, be consequently greatly to seek for proper Remedies.

2. *When the Sailers are put Sick ashore, they are provided for by Officers appointed at the several Ports by the Commissioners for Sick and Wounded, whose Business it is to take care not only for their Lodgment and Nurses, but also for all other Things necessary for the Cure of their Wounds, and Diseases. And as I make no doubt but those Gentlemen who now have, or others who may have, a Power to Supervise these Matters, will zealously perform their Parts, and oblige their Subordinate Officers to do the like; so must it be owned, that a Just and Charitable Care in these Matters will much contribute, not only to the Preservation of the Seamen, but to the confirming in them a hearty Love and Affection to the Publick Service: And as it were much to be wished, that some speedy*

To the Reader.

Care were taken towards the Reception of Poor, Maim'd, and Disabled Seamen, and the Widows and Children of such who have lost their Lives in the Publick Service, into the Hospital at Greenwich; so am I not without Hopes, that many well-disposed Persons will largely Contribute towards so Charitable a Work, when they find that the true Intent thereof is zealously promoted.

3. Furthermore it is of no little Consequence to the Good of the Service, that the Captains of the Ships of War do take a Fatherly Care of the Men under their Command, by seeing that Right be done them in every Particular; for they are entirely committed to their Government: And as this will not only greatly conduce to the General Quiet and Satisfaction of the Men, so will it also redound to the Particular Honour and Reputation of the Commanders themselves. Far be it from me to make a General, or even a Particular Reflection; and therefore, since 'tis not so intended, none can have Reason to Complain; but this I am assured of, that those Gentlemen will find the Conveniencies, which will attend the Countenancing of those who deserve well, and Punishing others who

To the Reader.

who are disorderly, according to the known Discipline of the Sea, and not otherwise.

4. *There is one Thing which gives no little Uneasiness to many Seafaring Men, and that is, the not discharging them from one Ship into another, when Offers are made to advance them to the Emploies of Mates, Midshipmen, or the like. The Denial of this is indeed a Discouragement; for when a Sailer has, by his Industry and length of Service, made himself capable of such small Employments, how can he think it other than hard Usage, to be tied down before the Mast as long as he lives.*
5. *As it is absolutely necessary for the Commanders themselves to Treat their Men humanely, and to shew them all good Examples, it is also indispensibly so, that they take all possible Care to oblige the Commission Officers, and others under them, to do the like, that so the Sailers may not have just Reason to slight their Necessary Command, upon account of any Indecency or Disorders they shall discover in them; for as most Men are but too liable to follow ill Example, so is there nothing can more contribute to wholesome Discipline; than the Officers practising*
them-

To the Reader.

themselves, what they ought to exact from the Men they have Authority over.

6. *Another Thing which requires more than Ordinary Care, is the supplying the Fleet with good and wholesome Provisions, the Want whereof subjects the Men to many Distempers. This Care ought to extend it self as well to Quantity as Quality; for as nothing does more Discourage a Sailer than his being Wrong'd in the first, so is there not any thing subjects them to Diseases, so much as a Defect in the latter.*

This Affair of Victualling was formerly performed by Contractors, but for a long time it has been under the Care of Commissioners, who keep their General Office on Tower-hill, and have not only their proper Agents at the several Victualling Ports in this Kingdom, but also their Correspondents abroad.

I shall not pretend to offer Physical Reasons, why the eating too much Salt Meats is prejudicial to the Health of Men, but it has often been observed, that the Seamen of other Nations (and particularly the Dutch) who feed oftener on other Species of Provisions, are not exposed to Sicknes like our's. Nay, so Healthy are the Seamen of the States, that

To the Reader.

that I question whether they did, during the whole War, carry so much as an Hospital Ship with the gross of their Fleet, whereas we have had sometimes Three, four, or more, and they fill'd but too often.

I am sensible that it will be a considerable Charge, when the Fleet shall be at Sea, to send Vessels on purpose with Fresh Provisions for the Sick or Wounded Men; but since it may very much contribute to the saving the Lives of great Numbers, may not the Consequence of that much over-balance the other?

I have experienced, during my Service in the Fleet, that by a long Cruize in the Soundings the Men fell sick in great Numbers, and that the Scurvy, or Fevers, were the most reigning Distempers, insomuch that it may be truly said, many of them died for want of a fitting Proportion of Fresh Provisions, before they could reach any Port to be taken care of; and even those whose Distempers did not carry them off e're they could be put on Shore, were, for want of such Necessaries, reduced to so weak a condition, that it required a longer Time for their Recovery than the Service would admit the Fleet to stay for them; wherefore if Care could be taken thus to refresh the Men, when at Sea, the Government (which allows them in Wages, and is put to other Charges for a Month's time,
a 4 *when*

To the Reader.

when sent Sick ashore, if they do not sooner recover) would be in a great measure eased as to that Expence, and the Fleet be constantly in a much better Condition for Service.

But if it shall be thought too great a Charge to take up Vessels on purpose to attend the Fleet the whole Campaign, yet it seems not unreasonable, that when the Fleet shall have been at Sea a considerable time, there should be Fresh Provisions sent out to them, and when distributed to each Ship, according as there shall be occasion, those Vessels may be discharged the Service. Nay, a great part of this so necessary Expence might be saved, by sending in the Tenders which usually accompany the Fleet; and when the Sailors are thus supplied with Fresh, it goes in lieu of Salt Meats, and other Species of Provisions; so that as there will arise no Additional Charge on that Account, it may be of great Service by lengthening out the Sea-Provisions; the want of timely Supplies whereof, at several times during the last War, I have known has greatly obstructed those Designs, which otherwise might have been carried on with greater Advantage to the Publick.

*Having thus touched on some Things which in my Opinion may be for the Advantage of the Publick Service, and agreeable to the Seamen, I come now to make
some*

To the Reader.

some Observations relating to the Navy it self, and shall in the first place give an Account of the Numbers and Rates of Ships and Vessels of which it is composed, Viz.

Rate.	Number.	N ^o of Men for their highest Complement.
1. —————	7 —————	5308
2. —————	14 —————	8834
3. —————	47 —————	21147
4. —————	61 —————	15702
5. —————	30 —————	4130
6. —————	14 —————	1480
<i>Fireships</i> —————	11 —————	495
<i>Bomb-Vessels</i> —————	13 —————	450
<i>Yachts</i> —————	15 —————	336
<i>Advice-Boats</i> —————	3 —————	115
<i>Brigantines</i> —————	5 —————	175
<i>Sloops</i> —————	10 —————	335
<i>Pink</i> —————	1 —————	20
<i>Ketch</i> —————	1 —————	50
<i>Storeships</i> —————	3 —————	123
<i>Hulks</i> —————	12 —————	225
<i>Floys</i> —————	16 —————	75
<i>Smacks</i> —————	2 —————	12
<i>Hired Storeships</i> —	3 —————	132
<i>Hospital Ships</i> —————	6 —————	335
<hr/>		<hr/>
274		59479

Of which Number all are in in a Condition for Service, except two First, six Second, four Third, and one Fifth Rate. In

To the Reader.

In time of Peace these Ships are laid up at the Principal Yards, namely Chatham, Portsmouth, Plimouth, Woolwich, Deptford, and Sheerness; but the biggest, and the greatest number of the biggest Ships, are always lodged at Chatham, where, and at the other Yards, they receive from time to time such Repairs as are necessary; but their Bodies are more thoroughly look'd into in time of Peace, than 'tis possible to do when War requires their constant Service.

At the several Dock-Yards before mentioned are the Magazines of all sorts of Naval-Stores; and how much it imports the Good of the Publick to keep those Magazines constantly replenish'd, every one is able to judge. They are generally supplied from the Northern Crowns, that is to say, Hemp, Pitch, Tar, Rosin, and several other Species; but as for Masts, particularly those of largest size, they are brought from New-England; and it were much to be wish'd, that the improving the afore-mentioned Commodities in Her Majesty's own Plantations might meet with all possible Encouragement, lest one time or other it may prove difficult to get them elsewhere. It is reasonable to think, that such an Undertaking will put the Nation to some considerable Charge ere it be brought to Perfection; but when so, many are the Advantages that will arise from it.

For

To the Reader.

For the Receipt and Issue of all Naval-Stores, there is a particular Storekeeper at each Yard; but as the other Officers, namely the Master Attendant, Master Shipwright, Clerks of the Checque and Survey, are more or less a Checque on the said Storekeeper, so is there one of the Principal Officers and Commissioners of the Navy particularly appointed to reside at, and inspect into Affairs of the Principal Yards, and another, who assists at the Board in Town, is charged with the Examining and Adjusting the Storekeeper's Accounts, as a Second is those of the Treasurer of the Navy, and a Third the Accounts of Victualling; And as each of the aforesaid Warrant Officers in the Yards have their peculiar Duties assigned them, viz. The Master Shipwright in building Ships, the Master Attendant in the proportioning Rigging for them, and putting it over head; laying out Moorings, and removing Ships from one Mooring to another, with several other Services; so are the Clerks of the Checque employed in Mustering the Workmen in the Yards, and the Ships Companies within their Reach, and Checquing them out of Wages when absent, and both they, and the Clerk of the Survey, inspect into all Stores delivered, to see that they answer to Contract, both in Quantity and Quality.

Besides

To the Reader.

Besides these Principal Officers in the Yards, there are others inferiour to them, but all are under the immediate Command of the Commissioners residing on the Place. Those inferiour Officers are the Assistants to the Master Shipwrights, Master Caulker, Master House-Carpenter, Master Joiner, Master Boatbuilder, Master Mastmaker, Foremen both on shore and afloat, Boatswain of the Yard, Master Sailmaker, and the like, who have also each of them their particular Duties assigned.

It is of greatest Consequence to the Publick, that those Officers of the Yards, who have the Care and Inspection of Repairing and Refitting the Ships of the Royal Navy, should employ their utmost Care and Diligence in the well-performing the same, by searching very narrowly their Hulls; for it hath been experienced, that when Ships have had much Time and Money spent on them, they have been obliged, by reason of Leaks, or other Defects, to return very suddenly into Port again, and by that means the Nation hath, to a very great Degree, lost the Benefit of their Service. As these are Misfortunes that ought, above all Things, to be prevented, so do they chiefly happen in time of greatest Action, when the Service cannot admit of searching, and so thoroughly repairing the Bottoms of the Ships as in Peace.

And

To the Reader.

And as, for the Reasons aforesaid, it is absolutely necessary to employ all imaginable Zeal and Care in this Particular, so may there be One more added thereunto, and that of no little Consequence, namely the great Consumption of Timber in building Ships, especially those of the greatest Magnitude, or in the Rebuilding them, when they shall be found almost worn out; and I could heartily wish, that more Zeal may be hereafter shewn, as well to the Growth as Preservation of Timber necessary for these Services, than hath been for many Years past; otherwise it may, one time or other, prove of the greatest ill Consequence.

There is one Thing which hath very much obstructed the intended Service of the Cruizing Frigats, and more especially in the Winter Season, which is the frequent Loss of their Sails, made of Canvas worked up in England, and which comes far short of what we have from Holland, as to Strength and Goodness. 'Tis true, the Use of this Manufacture was introduced into the Navy for the Benefit of our own Country, and for that Reason it were much to be wished, that it might in time be brought to Perfection, as it has, indeed, been of late very much amended; for otherwise the Use thereof may prove greatly Prejudicial, not only with respect to the Danger the Great Ships may be exposed to thereby, but by the obliging the
Smaller

To the Reader.

Smaller to come into Port for New Supplies, when the Safety of the Trade in the Chanel, and up and down in the Soundings, and elsewhere, does absolutely require their keeping out at Sea. Nay more than this, Opportunities of Service may be lost, not only with Squadrons, but single Ships, upon meeting an Enemy, for if the Sails prove bad, it may on the one hand impede their getting up with them, and on the other, subject them to a Surprize when out-number'd: And the Consequence may be fatal to a Fleet, or any number of Ships on a Lee-shore.

We are now entred into a Second War with France, and that even before we had a true Relish of the Peace, which was so solemnly Ratify'd at Ryswick. The Ambition of the French King has been the sole Occasion of it, who esteems nothing binding to him, when he has Opportunities of breaking his Word and Faith, with a Prospect of Advantage; which I think is so obvious to all Christendom, that there needs no other Arguement to establish a Belief of it. And since Her Majesty, with her Allies, hath heartily gone into this so necessary a War, in order to the procuring Quiet to those which France doth unjustifiably disturb, I hope Providence will so far Approve of the Justice of our Cause, as to enable

To the Reader.

enable us to bring down the Pride and Ambition of that Monarch, and to make him sensible, that the Grasping at the Birth-Rights of others, will one time or other (as it ought) occasion the Ruine of his own.

As the former War was constantly attended with the vast Expence of Great Fleets, so I have Reason to doubt this will. We then thought it necessary for the Safety of our Country, and the Trade, because 'twas uncertain what Strength the Enemy would set forth. France knowing we would do this, did frequently, and industriously amuse us, with their pretended Great Preparations; and yet, during two Thirds of the whole War, they did not appear at Sea with more than Squadrons, while our Great Fleets encountring the Winds and Waves, did not only very much impair their Hulls, but great Loss of Masts, Yards, Sails, and Ground Tackle, was occasion'd thereby.

For Easing the Publick Charge, methinks the Great Ships should be as early Paid off, each Year, as 'tis possible, if it shall be found necessary to fit them out at all; but in this, we must be Govern'd by the best Accounts that can be procur'd, of the Enemy's real Preparations and Designs. This I am well assured of, That the French King is not able to Arm out a Strength capable to Cope with the Body of the English and Dutch Fleets, after each Nation hath taken the
Neces-

To the Reader.

Necessary Care of their Trade, by proper Convoies and Cruizers ; nor can France enter the Lists, even with England alone, provided our Ships were all, or the most part of them, Employ'd at Home ; for as the 16 Ships of the Line of Battel, which were partly burnt, and partly taken, at Vigo in Galicia, by Sir George Rooke, in his Return with the Fleet the last Year from Cadiz, has in a great measure weakened their Strength, (as the taking several, and burning other Gallcons, which Monsieur Chateau-Renault brought thither from the Havana, has put them to great Straights for want of Money) so will they not, in my poor Opinion, be able to Repair this Loss, with that Expedition they did the Blow given them by the Earl of Orford, the last War, at La Hogue and Cherbrooke ; for 'tis credibly reported, That they built 15 or 16 Ships in One Year and a half, (the most of them Capital Ones) and that they were not only called by the same Names, but were of the very same Dimensions with those burnt at the aforesaid Places ; which probably the French King might cause to be done, as much to Amuse the next Age, by rendering it almost beyond Credit, that such a Loss could happen to him, and be so soon Repair'd, as for any other single Reason.

It is more than probable therefore, that He will think it his greatest Interest to lie

To the Reader.

on the Watch, and endeavour to Surprise us, either here or abroad, if he finds our Fleet so divided as to give an Opportunity for it, rather than set forth any considerable Fleet, to oblige us to keep Our's intire in these Seas in order to a General Engagement ; but I question not there will be all possible Care taken to prevent his having any Advantage of this Nature.

But notwithstanding what has been already said, in relation to our Great Ships, If it shall be certainly known that France does really intend to make their utmost Effort in these Seas, by Equipping and Setting forth all their Ships fit for Service, and that (besides the Numerous Services which call for our Fourth Rates, and smaller Ships) we are obliged to have a large Squadron in the West Indies, and possibly others elsewhere ; I say, in such case, there will be an indispensable Necessity for our Arming, in our own Defence, all or the most part of our Capital Ships.

On the other hand, if the French King shall find it necessary to keep up his Great Ships in Harbour, and probably good part of the rest of his Navy, what Necessity is there for Launching our First and Second Rates into the Sea ? I cannot foresee the Advantages which may arise from it, but that, on the contrary, they will, after having put the Nation to a very considerable
b *Charge,*

To the Reader.

Charge, return into Port in a much worse Condition than when they went out.

Undoubtedly the chief Thing to be aim'd at, in this Case, is to Man the Third Rates, and all our nimble Frigats well, and to keep them constantly Employ'd, for the Security of our Coasts and Trade, either in Squadrons or otherwise, as the Service shall from time to time require. Experience has taught us, that by putting forth the Great Ships, neither they nor the Cruizers can be timely, or tolerably well Mann'd, and consequently neither the one nor the other in so good a Condition of Safety, or to Defend themselves, as otherwise they would be, either in Extremity of Weather, or their Encountering an Enemy. Nay, put the Case yet farther, That the French, knowing our Great Ships are not out, should thereupon Arm their's, it is to be hoped we shall not unfortunately miss such early Notice thereof, as may Enable us, by a Vigorous Press, and calling in some of the smaller Ships, to Man our First and Second Rates, before the Enemy can have any Advantage over us. I cannot but differ in Opinion with some, That England is in Want of Seafaring-Men to Navigate it's Royal Navy; for, on the contrary, I do really believe, there might be found more than sufficient, both for That, and the Trade, did both the one and the other call for much larger

To the Reader.

larger Supplies ; but then the proper Methods must be taken, and all Persons concerned must Zealously do their Duty therein : Nor will I so much as doubt the good Inclinations of the Seamen to the Publick Service, since they find themselves so well Paid, and so kindly Treated in other Respects.

I shall conclude with a short Observation concerning the Trade of this Kingdom in time of Action. I do well remember, that in the last War the French did, with their Cruizers and Privateers. frequently take our Merchant Ships, but more particularly when they came into the Soundings from Foreign Voyages : And it is as fresh in my Memory, that the then Board of Admiralty did, on that Score, labour under very great Uneasiness and Difficulties, upon Reflections and Complaints that they had not a due Care of the Trade. Now, as it was then, and will hereafter be, as impossible entirely to prevent such Misfortunes as Robberies on the Highways, considering the great Numbers of the Enemy's Privateers ; so it may be truly said, that no small number of those Ships and Vessels which fell into the Hands of the Enemy, were such whose Masters did negligently, if not wilfully, leave their Convoys when they came near their Ports, either in hopes to come first to the Market, or for some other End,

To the Reader.

I shall only give one of the many Instances of this kind, and that in relation to a great Fleet of Merchant Ships which were coming from Virginia. These Ships kept with their Convoy till they arrived in the Soundings, and then a considerable Number of them belonging to Bristol taking the Opportunity of the Night, thought fit to separate, and were, I think, every one of them surprized by the Enemy before they could reach their Port, whereas all the rest came safe home. This occasion'd a great Clamour, and the Fact being thoroughly Examin'd into by a Committee of the House of Commons, it was plainly proved that the Ships were lost by the Carelessness (I will not say Villany) of their Masters. Now if some Penalty could be laid, by Act of Parliament, on the Masters of Ships and Vessels who shall thus leave their Convoys, and thereby not only expose their Owners to Ruine, and prejudice Her Majesty in Her Revenue, but subject themselves and Countrymen to Imprisonment and Hardships, and by that Means deprive the Publick of their Service, 'tis hoped it may, in a very great measure, prevent this Evil for the future.

ERRATA

Page 18. in the 2d Note in the Margin, for *Forchis*, read *Forces*. Page 26, in the Marginal Note, for attacking London-Derry, read relieving London-Derry. Page 91, in the 1d Note. for *Hrovisious*, read *Provisious*

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TRANSACTIONS

AT

SEA

DURING THE

War with France :

Begun in 1688.

SINCE the Motives which in-^{Introdu-}
duced His late Majesty, when ^{ction.}
Prince of *Orange*, to concern
himself for the Preservation of
the Religion and Liberties of
these Kingdoms, and those unhappy
Proceedings which lost King *James* the
Hearts of his Subjects, who, at the
Death of his Royal Brother, joyfully
proclaim'd his Succession to the Throne,
have been fully set forth on divers oc-
casions, I shall, without any repetiti-
B ons

ons thereof, leave the Reader to the following Sheets, which contain an Account of Remarkable Transactions at Sea, during the War which happen'd thereupon.

K James has notice of the Preparations in Holland.

It is well known, That the Invitations His late Majesty received in the Year 1688, led him to make Preparations in *Holland* for an Expedition to this Kingdom. King *James* had advice of the Progress that was from time to time made, and although he was not, at first, throughly convinc'd that the Design was levelled here, (notwithstanding he had then an Ambassador at the *Hague*) yet being afterwards assured thereof, and having a small Squadron of Ships in Pay, Commanded by Sir *Roger Strickland*, then Rear-Admiral of *England*, he thought it convenient to gather them together, and, about the middle of *June*, to send out some Scouts to observe the Motions of the *Dutch* Fleet. Not long after that, the Squadron it self was ordered to Sea, and made two short Trips to and from *Solebay*, the last after King *James* had visited them at the *Buoy of the Nore*, and consulted with his Flag Officer, and the Captains, what was most adviseable to be done, for intercepting the *Dutch* Fleet in their Passage; for at that

Scouts sent out.

A Squadron sent out with Sir Rog. Strickland.

that time it was altogether unknown to him, to what part of the Kingdom they were designed.

The Preparations in *Holland* advancing apace, it was thought necessary to send Instructions to Sir Roger Strickland, how he should govern himself in so important an Affair ; of which Instructions I think it not improper to insert the following Copy.

James R.

W Hereas We have been lately given *Instructions to Sir Roger Strickland*
to understand, that great Preparations are at this Day making by the States of the United Provinces for encreasing their Naval Force now at Sea, by the addition of a considerable Number of their greater Ships ; and forasmuch as We think it behoving Us, that, for preventing, as much as may be, the Evil that may be intended towards Us, Our Government, or the Trade of Our Subjects, you, with the Commanders of Our Ships under your charge, be, without delay, advertised thereof, We have to that purpose caused this by Express to be dispatched to you, to the end that upon receipt hereof you may immediately apply your self to the considering and putting in Execution whatever you, with the Advice of such of your Commanders as you shall call to your Assistance therein, shall judge expedient, for the putting
and

Transactions at Sea, &c.

and keeping Our said Ships in a Condition of attending the Motion of those of the States, as you shall from time to time conceive most for Our Service. To which end, though such is Our reliance upon your approved Diligence, Integrity, Valour and Experience, in Maritime Affairs, that We do hereby entirely commit the whole Conduct hereof in all Emergencies to your sole Direction and Discretion, yet We conceive it not unuseful (without Constraint) to recommend to you, in your Proceedings therein, the following Considerations.

1. *That two of Our Ships (to be changed once a Week) may be always kept Cruizing off of Orford-nefs, in order to as early discovering as may be the Approach or Motion of those of the States, with Instructions not to fail, so soon as any such Discovery shall be made, to repair with advice thereof to your self to the Downes, or where else you shall appoint for their meeting you.*

2. *That so soon as the Wind shall come Easterly, and whilst it so continues, the like be done by Ships to be by you employed between the Goodwin and Calais, for preventing the States Ships passing by undiscovered to the Westward.*

And here you are to take Notice, That for the more effectual securing of timely Advice to you of the Proceedings of the Ships of the States, and easing you in the
Ships

Ships to be spared for this use, We have determined to cause some Barking Smacks, or other small Craft proper for that Work, to be without delay taken up and sent forth to that Purpose, with like Instructions to repair from time to time to you, with Advice, as before: of the readiness of which Vessels to proceed on this Service, you shall be further informed from the Secretary of Our Admiralty.

3. *That upon your being advertised of the Dutch Ships being come to Sea, and of their Motion there, it may be adviseable (which way soever they bend, whether to the Northward, down the Chanel into the River, or towards the Downes) that you with Our Squadron do get under Sail, and (quitting the Downes either by the North or South Foreland according to your discretion) endeavour to follow them, so as always (if possible) to keep between them and their Home: And in case of their attempting to make any Descent, by Landing of Men upon any of Our Coasts, you are to proceed hostilely upon them, for the preventing or intercepting them as much as may be in their said Attempt.*

4. *That care be taken, by timely Orders to be given on that behalf, that effectual Provision be always made for Our Ships resorting to some known Places of Rendezvous in cases of separation: And that as*

frequent advice of the Proceedings of the Dutch be by you dispatched, as conveniently may be, to the Secretary of Our Admiralty, for Our Information. And whereas, for the better enforcing the present Squadron of Our Ships under your Command, We have determined upon converting those of the Fifth Rate into Fireships, and setting forth others of the Third and Fourth in their rooms, in the doing whereof all endeavours of dispatch will be used, Our Will and Pleasure is, That you do forthwith issue your Orders to the Lord Berkeley, to take the first Opportunity of Wind and Weather for bringing the Charles Galley to Sheerness, there with her Company to be removed into such other Ships as we shall, by Commission, have then appointed for him. But We are pleased to direct, That in case the Reserve be still with you, and that you conceive her in any Condition of being kept abroad a while longer, for answering the present Exigence, till those Recruits, or part of them shall come to you, you do respite the sending her to Portsmouth till further Order: For which this shall be your Warrant. Given at Our Court at Windsor, the 22^d of August, 1683.

By Command of His Majesty.

S. Pepys.

The Flag Officer being thus Instructed, it may be necessary to let you know the Strength of the Squadron, and what Ships were ordered to be got in readiness to join him; which was as follows, viz.

Number and Rates of Ships that were with Sir Roger Strickland.

Rate.	Number.
3 ^d —————	1
4—————	16
5—————	3
6—————	2
Fireships—————	4

Ships designed to intercept the Dutch Fleet.

Ordered to be fitted out to join him.

3 ^d —————	10
4—————	11
6—————	1
Fireships—————	3

61 in all;

Besides 6 Tenders, to be employed as Scouts.

Sir Ro-
ger's O-
pinion to
sail to the
Gun-
fleet.

Sir Roger found, upon Enquiry, that the Ships he had with him were very ill Mann'd; and since there was but little prospect of a speedy supply of Seamen, he desired that some Soldiers might be sent on board; which was done, tho' not with such Expedition as the nature of the Service required. He afterwards advised with the most experienced Officers in the Squadron, upon the Contents of his Instruction, and both himself and they were of Opinion, That they ought, when Victualled, to sail to the *Gunfleet*; for that they might there sooner get Intelligence of the Motion of the *Dutch*, than by staying in the *Downes*, since with West erly Winds it would be 5 or 6 days before the Scouts off of *Orford-ness* could ply it up; whereas the Squadron might soon put to Sea from the *Gunfleet*, upon notice of the *Dutch* being come out. But, if this met not with his Majesty's Approbation, he proposed, that one or two of the Scouts might sail directly to the Coast of *Holland*, to make Discoveries, whilst he, at the same time, sent two of his cleanest Ships off of *Orford-ness*, for the same purpose.

Soon

Soon after King *James* received this ^{King} Letter, he signified his Pleasure there- ^{James's} upon in the manner following; by ^{Directi-} which it appears, That the Opinion of ^{ons to him} the Flag-Officer, and the Captains under him, was not so much adher'd to, as might have been expected from the Contents of the first Instructions; for His Majesty let him know, That having considered well of his Proposals, and debated the same with several of the most experienc'd Commanders, and Masters, he was fully convinc'd, that it could not in any wise be convenient for his Service to put the same in Execution; for that the *Gunfleet*, at such a Season of the Year, was a very ill Road, and that if the Wind happen'd to be Easterly, he would be liable to be driven up the River by the *Dutch*; a Thing which he thought ought most of all to be avoided. Wherefore he directed him to go out of the *Downes* with the first Easterly Wind, and to lie between the *South-Sand's Head* and the *Kentish Knock*, there to continue under Sail all day, and at Anchor in the night-time, if fair Weather; but if it happen'd to over-blow, and that the *Dutch Fleet* did not appear, he was to proceed, by the back of the *Goodwin*, to *Bulloigne Bay*, and there stay till he was

was satisfied they were either pass'd down the Channel, or gone up the River: In the former of which Cases it was recommended to him to follow them, as near as he should judge convenient, till they were between the *Lizard* and *Scilly*, and finding them proceeding farther, to return to *St. Hellen's*, or *Spithead*; but if they bent their Course into the River, he was to endeavour to return by the back of the *Goodwin*, and to get the Wind of them. For the rest, it was left to him to do what he should judge best for the Service, with this only Proviso, That so soon as the Wind came up Westerly, and that none of the afore-mentioned Cases happen'd, he was to repair to the *Downes*. And here it may not be improper to observe, That these Directions; rather to proceed to *Bulloigne Bay* than the *Gunfleet*, were determined upon a solemn Debate the day before, (*viz.* the 26th of *August*) in King *James's* Closet at *Windsor*, the following Persons being present, who were particularly summoned from *London*, namely, the Lord *Dartmouth*, Mr. *Pepys* Secretary of the Admiralty, Sir *John Berry*, and three Elder Brothers of the *Trinity-house* of *Deptford Strand*, namely, Capt. *Atkinson*, Capt. *Mudd*, and Capt. *Rutter*, as also Capt. *John Clements* The

The 2d of September, Sir Roger Strickland had Advice from one of the Scouts, that 25 Sail of the Dutch Fleet, 16 of them great Ships, were off of Gorée, some of them under Sail, with 3 Flags, viz. Admiral, Vice, and Rear, and that they all lay with their Topsails loose upon the Windward Tide.

Advice of
the readi-
ness of the
Dutch
Fleet.

King James thinking his Squadron (which tho they were very ill Mann'd, were, for what Reason I know not, forbid to Press, even out of homeward-bound Merchant Ships) not of Strength sufficient to intercept the Dutch, ordered them to retire to the Nore; but yet directed that two of the cleanest Frigats should ply off of Orfordness, and that upon the first Appearance of a Foreign Fleet, one of them should immediately repair to the Nore with Advice thereof, and the other remain in her Station, to observe whether the said Fleet made up for Harwich or the River, and then also come to the Nore, and give notice thereof by the usual Signals. And that the Motions of the Dutch might be the better known, it was recommended to Sir Roger Strickland, as a Matter of greatest Importance, so to employ all the Scout-Vessels, as that he might have from them, and King James himself from him,

The Squa-
dron orde-
red from
the
Downes
to the
Nore.

him, the most frequent, quick, and exact Accounts of their Proceedings on their own Coast, and their departure thence.

Ld. Dartmouth appointed Admiral of the Fleet.

The beginning of *October* following, King *James* thought fit to appoint the Lord *Dartmouth* Admiral of the Fleet, who diligently apply'd himself in hastening to the *Buoy of the Nore* all Ships and Vessels that were fitting out in the Rivers of *Thames* and *Medway*, and received the following Instructions; in the Execution whereof I had the Honour to accompany his Lordship, as I did several Years before in his Expedition for the demolishing of *Tangier* in *Barbary*.

Instructions to the Lord *Dartmouth*.

James R.

Instructions to the Ld. Dartmouth.

W Hereas We have received undoubted Advice, That a great and sudden Invasion from *Holland*, with an Armed Force of Foreigners and Strangers, will be made speedily in an Hostile manner upon this Our Kingdom; Our Will and Pleasure is, That all Necessary Orders being by you issued for the hastening Our Ships and Vessels now sitting forth out of the Ri-

vers

vers of Thames and Medway, and from Portsmouth, together with those already at Sea under Command of Sir Roger Strickland Kt. Vice-Admiral of Our said Fleet, to their intended Rendezvous at the Buoy of the Nore, (a perfect List of all which Ships, Fireships, and other Vessels, is hereunto annexed) you do with all diligence repair on board Our Ship Resolution, Captain William Davis Commander, or such other of Our Ships as you shall now, and at any time or times hereafter, think fit to bear Our Flag (as Admiral) upon, taking upon you the Charge and Conduct of Our said Fleet, and what other Ships shall at any time hereafter be by Us set forth for re-inforcing the same. Which Fleet, and every part thereof, We (out of Our entire reliance upon your approved Loyalty, Valour, Circumspection, and Experience) do hereby Authorize and Empower you to lead, and by your Orders to direct and dispose of at all such Times, and in all Emergencies, as you in your Discretion shall judge most conducing to Our Honour, and the Security of Our Dominions, and particularly in the preventing the approach of any Fleet or Number of Ships of War from Holland upon any of Our Coasts, or their making any Descent upon the same. Towards your more effectual Execution whereof, We do hereby farther Empower and Require you,

to endeavour by all Hostile Means to sink, burn, take, and otherwise destroy and disable the said Fleet and Ships thereof, when and wheresoever you shall meet with, or otherwise think fit to look out for and attack the same, giving a perfect Account of your Proceedings therein to the Secretary of Our Admiralty for Our Information: And for so doing, this shall be your Warrant. Given at Our Court at Whitehall this First of October, 1688.

By His Majesty's Command,

S. Pepys:

The following *L I S T* of the Fleet was annex'd to the foregoing Instructions.

Ships for the Main Fleet.

<i>Rate.</i>	<i>Ships Names.</i>	<i>Where they were.</i>
3 ———	<i>Mary</i> ———	} Coming to the Nore with Sir Roger Strick- land.
	<i>Mountague.</i>	
4 ———	<i>Assurance,</i>	
	<i>Jerzey.</i>	
	<i>Constant War-</i>	
	<i>rick.</i>	}
	<i>Bristol.</i>	
	<i>Nonsuch</i> ———	}

Crown

Rate.	Ships Names	Where they were.
4 ———	Crown ———	Coming to the Nore with Sir Roger Strick- land.
	Dover.	
	Mordaunt.	
	Greenwich.	
	Tyger.	
	Bonadventure.	
6 ———	Larke.	}
Fireships,	Sally Rose.	
	Half Moon.	
	St. Paul ———	
Yachts 3.	—————	River.
4 ———	Forefight ———	At the Nore.
	Deptford ———	} Off of Or-
Fireship,	Dartmouth ———	
		fords.
4 ———	Faulcon ———	} Coming to the Nore from Yar-
Fireship,	Sampson ———	
6 ———	Saudadoes ———	Dornes.

Ships fitting out.

3 ———	Defiance ———	} At Black-
	Resolution.	
	Henrietta ———	
	Cambridge ———	} At Chatham.
	Elizabeth.	
	Pendennis.	
4 ———	Newcastle.	
	Woolwich ———	
3 ———	Rupert ———	In the Hope.
		York

<i>Rate.</i>	<i>Ships Names.</i>	<i>Where they were.</i>
3 ———	York ———	} At Portf- mouth.
	Dreadnought.	
	Plimouth.	
	Pearl.	
	Richmond.	
Fireships, {	Charles and Henry.	
	Unity ———	
4 ———	Advice ———	} At Spithead.
	Diamond ———	
	Ruby ———	} In Longreach.
	St. David.	
	Centurion.	
	Portsmouth.	
6 ———	Firedrake.	
	Guardland.	
	Guernsey.	} In Longreach.
	Swan.	
	Sophia.	
Fireships, {	Speedwell.	
	Elizabeth and Sarah.	
	Cignet.	
	Charles.	} At Deptford.
	Roebuck.	
4 ———	Anthelope ———	
	St. Albans ———	} At Deptford.
	Swallow ———	

Abstract.

Rate.	Number.
3 ^d —————	14
4 —————	24
6 —————	2
Fireships —————	18
Yachts —————	3
	<hr/>
	61

Of which, 38 were of the Line of Battel.

The Fleet being at the *Gunfleet*, and ready, in all respects, to proceed to Sea, his Lordship called a Council of War, and by a great Majority it was resolved to continue there: But there were some, (particularly Sir *William Jennings*, who commanded a Ship of the Third Rate) who thought it much more Adviseable to proceed over to the Coast of *Holland*, and there attend the coming forth of the *Dutch Fleet*. This last Proposal did certainly carry great Weight with it, had there been a real Design of obstructing His late Majesty in his Passage to *England*; but instead of that, Matters were so concerted, and agreed among the Flag-Officers and Commanders,

A Council of War at the Gunfleet.

ders, (who had frequently private Meetings) that had the Admiral come fairly up with the *Dutch*, it would not have been in his Power to have done much against them; altho I have reason to believe, that, in such case, his Lordship, and some of the Captains, would have done their utmost.

*The
Dutch
Fleet pass-
es by the
Gun-
fleet.*

Things being at this pass, the Ships of the States-General, commanded by Admiral *Herbert*, pass'd by the *Gunfleet*, and some of the Transports with Soldiers, even within our sight; while the *English* Fleet rid with their Yards and Topmasts down, and could not, by reason of the Violence of the Wind, purchase their Anchors.

*The
Dutch
Fishes
Land at
Torbay.*

But altho the Wind kept us thus tied by the Nose, yet was it very fair to carry the Prince to the *Downes*, and did from time to time favourably shift, till he arrived in *Torbay*, where he landed the 4th of *November*, with his Forces, which consisted not of above 14352 Men; but since (as I have been informed) his Highness was rather expected in some part of the North, it was some time before the Gentlemen of the Country could conveniently put themselves into a condition of coming in to him; insomuch that he called a Council of War, to consider what was
most

most Adviseable to be done, where his Return to *Holland* had like to have been determined. However, the Country came in by degrees, and King *James's* Army thereupon deserting, even by whole Regiments, and the best of his Officers also leaving him, while others shewed no great Inclination, more than the common Men, to Engage in his Quarrel, the Prince, by that means, marched, without Blood-shed, to *London*, and the unfortunate King, with his Queen, retired to *France* not long after.

But since this Matter has been already treated of by others, I shall return to the *English* Fleet, which, so soon as they could purchase their Anchors, put to Sea, and bent their Course Westward, and coming in few days off of *Torbay*, the *Dutch* Ships were there discover'd. We had not view'd them long, e're a Storm arose, and forced us out of the Channel; but returning thereinto in little time, and being again off of *Torbay*, we gave them an opportunity of seeing what our Strength might have enabled us to do, had our Inclinations been to treat them as Enemies. But the Prince being landed, and all Things favouring his Designs, the Admiral sail'd with the Fleet

The
English
Fleet sail'd
in quest
of the
Dutch

The Eng-
lish Fleet
retires to
the

to Downes,

to the *Downes*, where several Officers, known, or at least suspected, to be *Roman* Catholicks, were dismiss'd from their Employments, which was follow'd by an humble Address to his Highness: And not long after the Ships were disperfed, some to the Yards to be laid up, others to be clean'd and refitted, while those in the best condition for the Sea were appointed to necessary Services; and all possible diligence being made for an early Campaigne the next year, and particularly to prevent the *French* King's landing King *James*, and a Body of his own Troops in *Ireland*, Mr. *Herbert* (soon after created Earl of *Torrington*) was appointed Admiral of the Fleet the 14th of *March*, 1683, and coming to *Portsmouth* the 20th of that Month, found that the Ships ordered to join him from the East, lay Wind-bound in the *Downes*. The 20th of *April*, all the Ships design'd for the *Mediterranean* were added to him; and he having had notice, some days before, that King *James* was landed in *Ireland*, hastened to that Coast with all the Strength he could possibly get together, in hopes to intercept his Convoy; the rest he ordered to follow him, and to do it rather singly, than lose time by staying for one another; and

King
William
appoints
Admiral
Herbert
Admiral
of the
Fleet.

and the Places appointed for conjunction were the Coast of *Ireland*, or 10 Leagues West from *Scilly*.

Coming before *Cork* the 17th of *April*, 1689, with only 12 Ships of War, one Fireship, two Yachts, and two Smacks, he was informed that King *James* (who was conducted over by 22 Ships from *France*) Landed at *Kinsale* about two Months before. This led him to proceed first off of *Brest*, -and then to range to and fro in the *Soundings*, in hopes of meeting those Ships; but failing therein, and returning to the *Irish* Coast the 29th of *April* in the Evening, he discovered off of *Kinsale*, a Fleet of 44 Sail, of which he lost sight the next Day; but judging them to be Westward of him, he bore away, with the Wind Easterly, for *Cape Clear*, and in the Evening saw them standing into *Bantry* Bay. He lay off and on till Morning, and then stood towards them, having encreased his strength to 19 Ships of War, but the *Dartmouth*, a small Frigate, was one of the Number. The *French* were at Anchor, being 28 Ships of War, most of them from 60, to upwards of 70 Guns, and some of them bigger, with 5 Fireships; and the Transport-ships (which carried to *Ireland*

His Proceedings to the Coast of Ireland, and Engaging in Bantry Bay.

land about 5000 Men) were at some distance, plying to Windward.

Upon sight of our Ships those of the Enemy got under Sail, and when the Admiral had, with difficulty, worked up within two Miles of them, they bore down on him in a very orderly Line; and one of their Ships being within Musket-shot of the *Defiance*, that led our Van, they two began the Fight, and the others as soon after as 'twas possible. Our Ships made several Boards, intending thereby to gain the Wind of the Enemy, or at least to engage closer than they seem'd willing to do; but the Admiral finding he could do neither, and that it was not adviseable to press on, in such a manner, so unequal a Fight, he stretched off to Sea, not only to get his Ships into a Line, but to gain the Wind, if possible; but so very cautious were the *French* in bearing down, that he could meet with no opportunity of doing it; so that continuing the Fight, upon a stretch, till about Five in the Afternoon, the *French* Admiral Tack'd, and stood away. Our Ships were so much disabled in their Masts and Rigging, that not half of them were in a condition, either to follow, or make any farther Attack; and undoubtedly the *French* were roughly handled.

handled. How far their Admiral was tied up by Orders I cannot learn, but certain it is, that he made the least Use of the greatest Advantage ; for he had the Wind, and double the Force, besides Fireships. Considering therefore all Circumstances, and that most of our Ships were very ill Mann'd, we came off more fortunately than could reasonably have been expected ; for there was no more than 90 Men killed, and but 270 wounded : And Captain *George Aylmer* was the only Captain slain in this Action.

After this Dispute was over, the Admiral repaired to his Rendezvous, 10 Leagues West from *Scilly*, for he was in hopes of meeting there such an additional Strength, as might have enabled him to proceed in search of the *French* ; but being disappointed, he returned to *Spithead*, where Orders were lodg'd for the immediate fitting the Ships ; and all such as had not before join'd the Fleet, but were so far advanced as *Plymouth*, or *Scilly*, were remanded to *Spithead*, at which Place those from the East were also directed to Rendezvous, till further Orders.

The Admiral returns to Spithead.

Such dispatch was made, that the Admiral arrived with the Fleet off of *Torbay* about the middle of *June*, and

not many Days after, several Ships of the States General reached *Spithead*, and with them their Admiral, and a Vice, and Rear Flag ; and they, together with Mr. *Ruffel* (then Admiral of the Blue) sailed the 2d of *July* to join the Body, as did several others, as they came in, and received Orders so to do.

Vice-Ad-
miral
Kille-
grew or-
dered to
join the
Fleet.

Vice-Admiral *Killigrew* had been for some time with a Squadron off of *Dunkirk*, to keep the *French* Ships in at that Port ; but he finding no more than four in *Flemish* Road, and three of them small ones too, was also ordered to join the Fleet. All this little Squadron were Merchant Ships hired into the Service; except the *Kent*, a Third Rate, two small Frigats, and two Fireships ; and therefore they were disposed of to several necessary Stations, because they were in no wise proper for the Line of Battel.

The Ad-
miral ar-
rives a-
gain off
the
French
Coast.

The Admiral cruized on the *French* Coast, and to and fro in the *Soundings*, without meeting any thing remarkable ; and being, the latter end of *August*, in very great want of Beer, was obliged to come to *Torbay* ; a Place very convenient for the refreshment of the Fleet, though it does not altogether please People on shore, who (often without reason) think it a Loadstone that does too much attract. And now the Winter Season

Season being too far advanced, to admit of keeping the Fleet at Sea in a Body, those that wanted greatest Repairs, especially of the biggest Ships, were ordered into Port, and the remainder divided into Squadrons; of which Squadrons I come now to give some Account, and shall first mention that detached with Sir George Rooke in the Month of May.

The great Ships sent in, and others divided on several Services.

The Admiral thought it for the Service to send Captain Rooke (now Sir George) with a Squadron of Ships to the Coast of Ireland, to assist the Generals of the Land Forces in the Reduction of that Kingdom. With part of that Squadron he arrived off of Greenock about the 10th of May 1689, and then sent Orders to Chester, for the *Bonadventure*, and other Ships, to join him off of Cantire. That which first required his assistance, was the Relief of Londonderry, and therefore he determined to proceed thither so soon as the rest of the Ships join'd him; for he had no more than the *Deptford*, *Antelope*, *Greyhound*, *Kingsfisher* Ketch, and *Henrietta* Yacht. Being off of Cape Cantire the 22th, he received Advice from Captain Young, who commanded the King's Forces thereabouts, that a Body of Scotch were got together in the Islands *Geiga* and *Cara*, lying

Sir Geo. Rooke sent with a Squadron to Ireland, and his Proceedings there.

lying on the North side of *Cartire*; wherefore he proceeded thither, and, with great Difficulty and Hazard, got his Ships in, and laid them to pass; but the Enemy seeing Captain *Young* embarking his Forces, got to their Boats in great confusion, and so made their Escape.

The 8th of *June*, 1689. he fell in with the *Bonadventure*, *Swallow*, and *Dartmouth*, and a Fleet of Transport Ships with Major General *Kirk*, with whom he proceeded towards *Derry*, but was forced to, and detained at *Roughlin's Bay* till the 12th. When he arrived with the Forces off of *Derry Lough*, he ordered the *Dartmouth*, *Greyhound*, and *Kingsfisher* Ketch, to follow the Major General's Orders, for they, being the smallest, were the only proper Ships to go up the River, and the King had before put the *Swallow*, a 4th Rate, under the Major General's Command; so that the *Deptford*, *Bonadventure*, *Portland*, and *Antelope*, lay off of the Harbour's Mouth, to assist upon any Occasion, and to protect the Forces from Attempts by Sea.

A Consul-
tation a-
bout at-
tacking
London
Derry.

The Major General being advanced near the Place, called a Council of War, the 19th of *June*, on board the *Swallow*, where was present Colonel *Stuart*, Colonel

lonel Sir *John Hammer*, Lieutenant Colonel *St. John*, Lieutenant Colonel *Woolfeley*, Lieutenant Colonel *Dampier*, Lieutenant Colonel *De la Barte*, Lieutenant Colonel *Lundini*, Major *Rowe*, Major *Tiffin*, Major *Carville*, Major *Richards*, Enginier, Captain *Cornwall* of the *Swallow*, Captain *Leak* of the *Dartmouth*, Captain *Gillam* of the *Greyhound*, Captain *Sanderson* of the *Henrietta* Yacht, and Capt. *Boys* of the *Kingsfisher* Ketch. They were almost assured, by the Intelligence received, that there was a Boom laid cross the River, a little above *Brook-Hall*, at a Place called *Charles Fort*, and that the said Boom was framed of a Chain and Cables, and floated with Timbers; and that at each end thereof there were Redoubts with heavy Cannon. They were also informed, That the sides of that narrow River were Intrenched, and Lined with Musquetiers, and that several Boats were sunk, and Stockades drove in with great spikes of Iron: Nor was there any room to doubt of that part which related to the Cannon, for the *Greyhound* received considerable damage from them in going up the Day before: Wherefore it was resolved to stay till their Force was augmented, and then, by making a Descent, to oblige the Enemy to raise the Siege.

In

In the mean time the Major General design'd to possess himself of the Island *Inch*, and therefore the Commadore took on board the Ships of War a Detachment with Col. *Stuart*, with whom arriving the 9th of *July* in *Lough Swilly*, he came to an Anchor near the Island, and the next Morning the Men were Landed. The Pass from the Island to the Main was secured the 16th by two Redoubts, and a Battery of Cannon, on each side whereof the *Greyhound* and *Kingsfisher* Ketch were moored; and then the Commadore sailed with the *Deptford*, *Bonadventure*, and *Portland*, towards *Lough Foyle*, met the Major General coming down with his Transports from *Kilmore*, in order to land the Forces on *Inch*; and being inform'd by him, That some *French* Ships of War had been on the Coast. and taken two small *Scotch* Frigats off of *Carrickfergus*, and two *English* Vessels near *Cantire*, and that they were gone from thence with some Forces to the Isle of *Mull*, he immediately sailed, and arrived at the said Island the next day; but the *French* Ships departed thence 4 days before, and bent their Course for the South Coast of *Ireland*. The very Morning he arrived, a Battalion of about 400 Men were transported from the Island

to

to the Main, and their Officers were following in two small Vessels; but seeing our Ships doubling the Land, they got on shoar, and ran up to the Mountains. After the Commadore had batter'd the Castle on the Island belonging to Commissary *Macklaine*, he sailed, and the next morning, off of the Island *Ila*, met a small Boat with an Express from Duke *Hamilton*, giving him an Account of what had happened to the two *Scotch* Frigats; and that the *Irish* designed to transport more Forces from *Carreckfergus*; for which Reason his Grace desired him to continue to cruize in that Station, to prevent them, which he accordingly did.

The 22d of *June* the *Portland* brought him a Letter from the Major General, advising him, that the Forces in *London-derry* were reduced to that Extremity, for want of Provisions, that they had lived for some time on Hides, Dogs, and Cats: That he was returned from *Inch* with the *Swallow*, and three Victualling Ships, and was resolved they should attempt to get up to the Town, but believed the Countenance of some other of the Ships might be very serviceable. Upon this the Commadore left the *Bonadventure*, and *Portland*, in his Station, and with the *Deptford* and *Dart-*

The Hard-
ships the
People of
Derry
suffered
for want
of Provi-
sions.

Dartmouth, proceeded towards the Major General, the last of which Ships he sent up to *Kilmore* to receive his Orders, and then returned to the *Bonadventure* and *Portland*, with intention to continue there till the Arrival of the three Ships he expected from the Earl of *Torrington*, Admiral of the Fleet.

Supplies
sent into
London
Derry,
and the
Siege raised.

By this Assistance the Supplies were safely convey'd to *Derry*, and the Siege of that Place was soon after raised: And about this time the King's Forces, commanded by Colonel *Berry* near *Linaskea*, had a Signal Victory over the Enemy; insomuch that of the number killed by the Army, and what were knocked on the Head, in the Woods and Bogs, by the Country People, they lost not less than 4000 Men; and their Cannon, and most of their surviving Officers, were taken, among whom was Major General *Mac-kartie*, who was shot through the Thigh, and run into the Back: But this being a Matter somewhat remote from the Business in hand, I shall dwell no longer on it.

A Victory
obtained
by the
King's
Forces
near *Linaskea*.

Duke
Schon-
berg ar-
rives in
Ireland
with Fer-
ces.

Soon after the Commadore met the Duke of *Schonberg*, with the Transport Ships coming into *Bangor Bay*, in *Carrickfergus* Lough, where he landed part of his Army the same night; but many

ny of the Transports were wanting, and with them the *Charles Galley*, *Supply*, *Saudadoes*, *Dartmouth*, and *Pearl*; and therefore the *Portland* was sent to the Isle of *Man* in quest of them.

The 25th of *August*, the Ships in the *Irish Seas* were disposed of as follows :

Deptford.

Bonadventure.

Mary Galley.

Anthelope.

Supply.

Fanfan Sloop.

Anne Ketch.

Charity Ketch.

Kingfisher Ketch.

Edward and Susan

Hoy.

At *Carrickfergus*, before which Place the Army encamped the 20th, and it surrendered the 28th.

Dartmouth.

Princess Anne.

Charles Galley.

Greyhound.

Unity Ketch.

Pearl.

Henrietta Yacht.

Monmouth Yacht.

Portland.

Saudadoes.

Welcome Ketch.

Swallow.

At *Hylake.*

Cruizing off of the Isle of *Man*.

Cruizing between *Dublin* and *Man*.

Off of *Cape Cantire*.

With Major General *Kirke*.

The

The Squadron having continued at *Carrickfergus* some time, the Commadore was ordered by the General to take with him the *Deptford*, *Bonadventure*, *Mary Galley*, *Swallow*, *Portland*, *Anthelope*, *Dartmouth*, *Archangel*, *Sampson*, *Scepter*, *Princess Anne*, *Hannibal*, *Smyrna Merchant*, *Supply*, *Greyhound*, and *Henrietta* Yacht, together with the *Kingfisher*, *Anne*, *Unity*, and *Richard and Martha* Ketches, and to cruize with them off of *Kinsale* and *Corke*, or where he should judge it most for the Service; and the General kept with him, at *Carrickfergus*, the *Charles Galley*, *Pearl*, *Saudadoes*, *Fanfan*, *St. Malo Merchant*, *Navy Yacht*, *Monmouth Yacht*, *Cleveland Yacht*, *Dragon Sloop*, *Edward and Susan* Hoy, *Charity Ketch*, *Seaventure* Hoy, and the *Prosperous Ketch*, which were put under Command of Captain *Roach* of the *Charles Galley*.

The Commadore ordered to cruize with part of the Squadron off of Kinsale and Corke.

He is directed to send all the hired Men of War to Hylake.

The Commadore put to Sea, and endeavour'd all that possibly he could to get Southward, but was forced by bad Weather into *Bangor Bay*, where he received Orders from the Lords of the Admiralty to send all the hired Ships to *Hylake*. In his Passage from *Carrickfergus*, a strong Southerly Wind took him, which forced him to bear up and Anchor at the *Skerrys*, about 12 Miles from

from *Dublin*, and sending the Yacht in for Intelligence of the Army, several Shot were fired at her from the Shore; whereupon he ordered the Ketches in, and manning all the Boats, landed about 200 Men, who beat out of the Town those that pretended to defend it: But the Hills being covered with Horse and Foot, he ordered the Seamen off, lest they should be exposed; for they are a sort of People far from being the most orderly in a Retreat: However, before they embarked, they either stav'd or brought off all the small Vessels and Fisherboats.

The 16th of *September* the Comma-
dore came into *Dublin Bay*, where he
had thoughts to Anchor, and to send
the Yacht and Ketches into the Har-
bour, to attempt the taking or bur-
ning the Ships and Vessels; but the
Wind vierung out, and blowing hard,
forced him away, so that arriving off
of *Corke* the 18th, he ordered the
Yacht, and the four Ketches, into the
Harbour for Intelligence, and to assure
the People of their Majesties Protection,
upon Submission; but the obstinate
Irish having planted 14 or 15 Guns on
both sides the Harbour's Mouth, plied
upon the Vessels with great and small
Shot; notwithstanding which they

D

The Peo-
ple of
Corke
oppose the
Vessels
sent into
the Har-
bour by
Sir Geo
Rooke.
pro-

Sir Geo.
Rooke
arrives
in the
Downs.

proceeded, landed their Men, and took possession of the Great Island : But the Ships being very foul, and in want of all Species of Provisions, the Commadore was constrain'd to leave his Station, and came to the *Downes* the 13th of *October*, 1689, having lost Company with all the Ships, on the *Irisb* Coast, except the *Portland*.

Vice-Ad-
miral
Kille-
grew ap-
pointed to
command
a Squa-
dron
bound to
the
Streights.

I now come to Vice-Admiral *Kille-grew*, who, on the 28th of *December*, 1689, was appointed Admiral and Commander in Chief of a Squadron designed for the *Mediterranean*, which consisted of one Second Rate, four Thirds, seven Fourths, one Fifth, and two Fireships ; with which (upon Admiral *Russel's* Arrival at *Spithead*, or so many of them as should then be with him) he was to put himself under his Command, and to follow his Orders for proceeding to the *Streights* : But several things happened which prevented his getting timely ready to accompany the said Admiral ; as will be hereafter related.

Admiral
Russell
ordered to
carry the
Queen of
Spain to
the
Groine.

Admiral *Russell* was appointed to convoy the Queen of *Spain* from *Holland* to the *Groine* ; for which Expedition he was, as is already said to have some of the Ships of the *Mediterranean* Squadron, namely, the *Duke*, *Berwick*, and

and *Mountague*: And, that I may make my Account hang as orderly together as 'tis possible, I shall first relate that Matter, and afterwards let you know Vice-Admiral *Killegrew's* Proceedings to and from the *Streights*.

The 24th of *November*, 1689, Mr. *Russell* was ordered to proceed to *Ulfhing* in *Zeland*, with the *Duke*, a Second Rate, four Third Rates, two Fourths, and two Yachts, there to receive on board the *Queen of Spain* and her Retinue, and from thence to repair to *Spithead* for further Orders; and upon her Majesty's coming on board, and during the whole time of her stay, he was ordered to wear the Union Flag at the Maintopmast Head; a thing never done before, in the Channel, but by the Chief Admiral of the Fleet.

His Proceedings in that Expedition.

He arrived off of *Ulfhing* the 12th of *December*, having been obliged to lie 24 hours on that Coast in such hazy Weather, that 'twas impossible to make the Land; and the *Queen* took the very first opportunity to embark. From thence her Majesty was brought to the *Downes*, where both her self and Retinue were removed into more proper Ships; and the 24th of *January*, 1689, she arrived at *St. Hellens*, from

whence the Admiral proceeded so soon as Winds would permit, but was forced back to *Torbay* the 23d of the next Month; as he was the 2d of *March*, after another Attempt to sail: But at length getting clear, he had sight of the *Groine* the 16th; and having put the Queen and her Attendance on shoar, and dispatched what things were necessary to be done, he set Sail, but by contrary Winds was forced into the Harbour of *Ferola*, and in a violent Storm the *Duke*, a Second Rate, drove on shoar, but with great Care and Pains was luckily got off again, with little Damage. The Ships that were appointed for part of the *Mediterranean Squadron* he timely dispatched to *Cadiz*; and then taking the first Opportunity of a Wind, reached *Plimonth* the 25th of *April*, 1690, with the remainder of his Ships, and arriving at *Portsmouth* the 28th, he there landed the Ladies, and other Persons of Quality that attended the Queen of *Spain* in her Passage, who, if I guess right, did not meet with that Content and Satisfaction in the *Spanish Court*, which a Princess of her Birth and incomparable Perfections really deserved.

And now I come to Admiral *Killgrew*, and to give an Account of his
Pro-

Proceedings to, and in the *Mediterranean*, before I mention any thing of the Transactions of the Body of the Fleet at home the next year : And, in the first place, it may not be altogether improper to let you know, that he had the following Instructions for his Government in that Expedition.

I. When he arrived at *Cadiz* he was to send the *Happy Return* and *Oxford* (two Fourth Rate Ships) with the Trade to *Malaga* and *Alicant*, and to give them necessary Orders for their Return to *England* with the Merchant Ships.

II. At such time as he judged it most convenient, he was to order the *Portland*, *Faulcon*, *Tiger*, and *Saphire*, to proceed with the Trade to *Genova*, *Livorne*, *Naples*, and *Messina* ; and to see those bound for *Gallipoly* and *Zant*, as near to those Places as they could conveniently. The Ships of War were to keep together with the *Turkey* Ships to the Height of *Candia* ; and there parting, the *Tiger* and *Faulcon* were to conduct those bound to *Smirna* and *Constantinople* ; but those to *Smirna* first, and then the others within the *Dardannelli* : After which they were to return to and remain at *Smirna* 60 days. The other two Ships, the *Portland* and *Sa-*

phire, were to convoy the Trade bound to *Scanderoon*, and to continue in that Port 60 days; and at the expiration of the aforesaid time, they were respectively to sail, with all the Trade that should be ready, to *Missina*, the Place desired by the *Turkey* Company for their *Rendezvous*. But nevertheless it was left to the Admiral to give them other Directions, in case he judged it more for the Service, and to send them home with the Trade for *England*, in such manner as (according to Intelligence) he should think most for the Service.

III. Having dispatched away these Convoys, he was, with the *Duke*, *Berwick*, *Resolution*, *Mountague*, *Burford*, *Newcastle*, and *Greenwich*, together with the *Dutch* Ships appointed to join him, and the *Half-Moon* and *Cadiz* Merchant, Fireships, to attend the motion of the *French*, in a Body, and in such manner as he judged might most conduce to the intercepting them, and the Safety of the Trade; and to attack them if he found himself of Strength sufficient: But in case they happened to pass the *Streights*, he was, upon the first Notice thereof, to follow them.

The 7th of
March 1690
Torbay,
and Ar-
rived at
Cadiz.

The 7th of *March*, 1690, he sailed from *Torbay*, but arrived not at *Cadiz* till

till the 8th of the next Month ; for he met with extream bad Weather, inso-much that several of his Squadron were much shatterred, and two Ships of the States General unhappily foundred, one of 72, and the other of 60 Guns, having but one Mast standing between them, and that too but a Mizzen. In repairing these Damages he met with no little Discouragement and Interruption from the then Governor of *Cadiz*, who on this, and all other occasions, demonstrated that he inclined somewhat to an Interest that suited not well with that of the Allies.

The Admiral received, on the 9th of *May*, three several Expresses ; one from the Consul at *Alicant*, another from him who resided at *Malaga*, and the third from Captain *Skelton*, who was with part of the Squadron at *Gibraltar*. They all advised him that the *Thoulon* Squadron, commanded by Monsieur *Chateau Renault*, was seen from those Places, and that they consisted of 10 Sail, and three of them of 80 Guns each. A Council of War was there-upon called, and 'twas resolved to sail with as many Ships as were in a Condition, and to join the 6 *English* and *Dutch* that Captain *Skelton* had with him at *Gibraltar*, who was ordered not

*The Ad-
miral he
received
of the
Thoulon
Squadron.*

*Resolution
of a Coun-
cil of
War.*

to attempt any thing till so joined ; but to take especial care for his Safety. Accordingly the Admiral sailed the 10th, at 4 in the morning, with the *English* Ships following, viz. the *Duke*, *Montague*, *Eagle*, *Tyger*, *Portland*, *Falcon*, *Happy Return*, *Richmond*, and *Sapphire* ; being one Second Rate, two Thirds, four Fourths, and two Fifths, as also two Fireships, together with two Ships of the States General, called the *Gelderlandt* and *Zurickzee*, with which was Lieutenant-Admiral *Almonde* : But there was left behind a Third Rate, the *Resolution*, and a Fourth Rate, named the *Newcastle*, as also a Prize taken by Captain *Bokenham* of the *Happy Return*, called the *Virgin's-Grace* ; for they were not in a fit Condition for the Sea.

*His Proceedings
in search
of the
French
Squadron.*

The 10th, at 11 at night, the Wind was at W. N. W. and the Squadron had then Cape *Traflegar* E. and by N. about 4 Leagues off. At 4 the next morning they steer'd away for the *Streights Mouth*, and had Cape *Spartell* S. W. distant about 6 Leagues, at which time the Admiral detached the *Portland* to *Gibraltar*, with Directions to Captain *Skelton* to get ready and join him. About one afternoon he got into the Bay, but continued plying in
till

till the other Ships there could get up their Anchors; and at this time there came on board him three *Spanish* Gentlemen from the Governor of *Gibraltar*, with Advice from the Commander in Chief at *Centa*, a *Spanish* Garrison on the *Barbary* Coast, that there had been seen the night before 14 Ships at Anchor in *Tetuan* Bay. The whole Squadron being now under Sail, consisting of one Second Rate, three Thirds, six Fourths, two Fifths, and two Fireships of the *English*, and five Ships of the *States General*, they stood over for *Centa* Point, with a fair Gale at West, and there lay by all night. The next morning early the Admiral stood for the Bay of *Tetuan*, where he found only two Ships, the one at Anchor in the West part of the Bay, the other under Sail about 2 Leagues Eastward of her. The latter got away, and put aboard the Colours of *Argier*; but the other, being imbayed, was taken by Vice-Admiral *Almonde*, and proved to be a *French* Ship bound to *Antegoa*. The Wind shifting to the E. S. E. a small Gale, our Squadron stood over for the *Spanish* Shoar, and having *Centa* point W. N. W. about 2 Leagues off, the Men at the Mast-head saw 10 Ships to the North, lying with their Heads Eastward.

The
Thoulon
Squadron
discover'd
her

ward. Notice was given of this to Monsieur *Almonde*, who could not so soon discern them, because he was about 2 Leagues Southward of our Ships, and in a very little time after the whole Squadron stretch'd over for *Gibraltar* Hill, the *Montagne* being sent a-head to observe and give notice of the Enemy. At Eleven a Clock she fell a-stern, her Captain having discover'd, and given Notice, that 4 Ships were under his Lee, so that all Endeavours were us'd to get up with them, and about One a Clock they were not above 2 Miles off; and it being then discerned that they run for't, our Squadron set their Top-gallant Sails, and crowded after them as much as 'twas possible; but the *French* Ships had the better Heels, for they were just clean'd, whereas some of ours had been 17 Months off of the Ground. The Chase was continued till Ten the next day, and then the *French* were about 4 Leagues a-head, and the *Dutch*, with several of the *English* Ships, near Hull-to-a-stern; insomuch that the Admiral had only the *Duke*, *Mauntague*, *Eagle*, and *Portland* near him. Notwithstanding this, Monsieur *Chateau Renault* kept on his way, having 13 Ships with him, viz. 6 Men of War, 3 Fireships, a Tartane, and

The
Thoulon
Squadron
engages.

and 3 Merchant Ships, and there being no prospect of coming up with them, the Chase was given over; but, between 9 and 10 in the morning, the *Richmond* and *Tiger* put one of the Merchant Ships on Shoar, Westward of *Tarriffa*, and with great labour got her off. The Admiral lay by till Three a Clock, and then, the rest of his Squadron coming up, he bore away for *Cadiz*, with a fresh Gale at East; but, by reason of contrary Winds, could not reach that place till the 21st. From thence he dispatched away the several Convoys, namely, the *Tiger*, *Newcastle*, and *Oxford*, for *Smyrna*, commanded by Captain *Coal*; the *Portland*, *Greenwich*, and *Falcon*, to *Scandaroon*, under the Conduct of Captain *Ley*; and the *Sapphire* and *Richmond* were appointed for *Malaga* and *Alicant*, under Command of Capt. *Bokenham*.

Our Ships
repair to
Cadiz,
from
whence
the Ad-
miral
sends a-
way the
Trades up
the
Streights.

This being done, and all things put in order for the Squadron's return for *England*, since the *French* Ships had passed the *Streights*, the Admiral set Sail, and in 35 days arrived at *Plimouth*, with one Second Rate and four Thirds of *English*, together with the *Virgin* Prize, and *Half-Moon*, and 6 *Dutch* Men of War. At *Plimouth* he received Letters, lodged there from the Lords of the

Admiral
Kille-
grew ar-
rives at
Pli-
mouth.

He is advised to remain there, the French Fleet being in the Channel.

the Admiralty, by which he was informed, that the *French Fleet* had obliged ours to retire, and that they hover'd about *Rye, Dover*, and those Parts; for which reason, he was advised to take care for the Security of his Squadron. This occasion'd his calling a Council of War, where it was determined to proceed with the Ships into *Hamoze*; for 'twas judg'd they were not safe in the *Sound*, should the *French* attempt them: Besides, being great Ships, they could not run in at any time of the Tide: Nor were they in a capacity of putting forth to Sea, till such time as they had taken in Water, Stores, and Provisions. At this Consultation there was Vice-Admiral *Killegrew*, Vice-Admiral *Almonde*, and Rear-Admiral *Evertson*, as also Sir *Cloudestly Shovell*, Rear-Admiral of the Red, who was arriv'd at *Plimouth* from the Coast of *Ireland*.

This being soon after the Engagement off of *Beachy*, which happened the 30th of *June*, 1690, between the two Fleets, commanded by the Earl of *Torrington*, and Monsieur *Tourville*, it naturally leads me to the giving the following Account of that Action, viz.

The

The Earl of Torrington being with the Fleet at *St. Hellens*, was not a little surprized at the Advice he received from *Weymouth*, that the *French* were so unexpectedly entred into the Channel; for so far was he (by all Intelligence received) from believing they were in that forwardness, that there was not many Scouts Westward to observe and bring an Account of their Motion: But this News was soon confirmed from many other Places, so that it was found high time to muster up all Ships within reach, both *English* and *Dutch*; and at least to put them into the best condition that might be of Defence. His Lordship sailed the 24th, early in the morning, with the Wind at E. N. E. and stood to the S. E, the *French* Fleet having been seen by our Scouts the day before on the back of the Isle of *Wight*.

The Earl of Torrington receives Advice of the French Fleet's being in the Channel.

His Proceedings there-upon.

Next day the Fleet was reinforced by the *Lion*, a Third Rate, and several *Dutch* Ships of War, and, with a N. E. Wind, were in sight of the Enemy.

About 4 a Clock the next morning the Admiral stood towards the *French*, who were about 3 Leagues off, and thô, when the Wind shifted to the S. E. and S. E. by S, he tacked and stood Eastward, yet at 3 afternoon the whole Fleet went about, and stood West-

Westward again. The *French* about this time took several People from the Shoar ; and when they had punished them for magnifying the Strength of our Fleet, they were dismissed, with a Letter to the Admiral, (as I am informed) from Sir *William Jennings* (who commanded an *English* Ship of War at the Revolution, and now served in no better a Post than that of third Captain to the *French* Admiral) promising Pardon to all Captains that would come in for King *James*.

A further Reinforcement arrived, of 7 *Dutch* Ships, with Admiral *Evertsen*, and another Flag Officer ; but the two Fleets continued looking on each other, without Action, till the 30th ; for the Admiral was not willing to engage till the Ships he expected from the East had joined him. But notwithstanding the Enemy were so much superior in Strength, as 70 odd Sail to 50, and that their Ships were of greater Rates, positive Orders were sent to him from the Court to give them Battel : Whereupon, as soon as 'twas light, the Signal was put abroad for drawing into a Line ; and that being done, the whole Fleet bore down on the Enemy, who were under Sail, by a Wind, with their Heads Northward.

*Receives
Orders to
engage
the En-
emy.*

At

At 8 in the morning the Signal was made for Battel, and the *French*, bracing their Head-Sails to the Mast, lay by. About an hour after, the *Dutch* Squadron, which led the Van, began to engage part of the Van of the *French*; and half an hour after that, the *English* Blue Squadron encountred their Rear; but the greatest part of the Red, which were in the Center, could not engage till near 10; and as they were then at a considerable distance from the Enemy, so was there a great opening between them and the *Dutch*. It was observed, that as our Ships bore down on the *French*, they lasked away, thô probably that was only to close their Line; and afterwards several of their Ships tow'd round away with their Boats till they were out of Shot, infomuch that there was great hopes the Advantage was, or would fall, on our side; but 'twas not long er'e the *Dutch* appeared to have suffered very much, and chiefly by their being (for want of a necessary Precaution) weathered and surrounded, by those *French* Ships which they left a-head of them when they began to engage.

An Account of the Engagement off of Beachy

No sooner did the Admiral perceive their Condition, but he sent them Orders to chop to an Anchor, and with
his

his own Ship, and many others, drove between them and the Enemy, and anchored about 5 in the afternoon, at which time it was calm ; but judging it not safe to renew the Fight at so great a Disadvantage, he weighed at 9 at night, and retired Eastward with the Tide of Flood.

*Our Fleet
retires
Eastward,
and the
French
pursue.*

The 1st of *July*, 1690, in the afternoon, he called a Council of War, where it was resolved to endeavour the Preservation of the Fleet by retreating, and rather to destroy the disabled Ships, if prest by the Enemy, than to hazard another Engagement by protecting them. The *French* very indiscreetly pursu'd in a formal Line of Battle ; whereas had they left every Ship at liberty to do her utmost, our Fleet would undoubtedly have been more roughly handled, especially those Ships that were cripled in Fight, but each of ours shifting for her self, (as 'tis natural to do in such Cases) and caution being had in anchoring most advantageously, with regard to the Tides, which the *French* took no notice of, we thereby got ground considerably of them. However they pursued as far as *Rye Bay* ; and one of the *English* Ships, called the *Anne*, of 70 Guns, was run on shore near *Winchelsea*, having lost all her

her Mafts, where two *French* Ships attempted to burn her; but the Captain faved them that labour, by precipitately fetting fire to her himfelf.

The Body of the *French* Fleet stood in and out off of *Boorn* and *Pemzey*, while about 14 more lay at Anchor near the Shoar, and fome of them attempted to deftroy a *Dutch* Ship of about 64 Guns, that lay dry at low Water in *Pemzey* Bay; but her Commander did fo well defend her, every high Water when they made their Attempts, that they at laft thought it convenient to defift; fo that this Ship was got off, and fafely carried to *Holland*; but it fared not fo well with the three others of that Nation, which were on Shoar on the faid Coaft, for their Officers and Men not being able to defend them, fet them on fire; fo that, with the three Ships burnt by the *French* in the Action, the States General loft fix of their Men of War.

On the 8th the *French* Fleet weighed, and stood towards their own Coaft, but were feen the 27th following off of the *Berry* Head, and then, the Wind taking them fhort, they put into *Torbay*. There they lay not long, for they were discover'd the 29th Eaftward of *Plimonth*, at which Place very good

The French repair to their own Coaft.

Preparations were made, by Platforms and other Works, to give them a warm Reception. The 5th of *August* they appeared again off of the *Ram* Head, in number between 60 and 70, and stood Westward; which was the last time they were seen in the Chanel this Year.

Care taken to preserve our Ships, and the Enemy come towards the River.

Our Fleet retreated towards the River of *Thames*, and then the Admiral going on Shoar, left the chief Command to Sir *John Ashby*; but first gave Orders to Captain *Monck* of the *Phoenix*, together with four more Fifth Rates, and four Fireships, to Anchor above the narrow of the middle Grounds, and to appoint two of the Frigats to ride, one at the *Buoy of the Spits*, and the other at the lower end of the *Middle*, to take away the Buoys, and immediately to return and make the usual Signal, if the Enemy approached: And in case they press'd yet farther on him, he was ordered to take away the Buoys near him, and to do what Service he could with the Fireships; but still to retire, and to take up the Buoys in his way. This Apprehension was soon over, by the Enemy's drawing off, as is before-mentioned; so that the chief Thing to be done, was to put the Fleet into a condition to go to Sea again.

This

This unlucky Accident occasioned various Reports and Conjectures, and the *Dutch* were very uneasy upon account of the Damage they had sustain'd; insomuch that several Persons of Quality were deputed, and sent to *Sheerness*, to examine thoroughly into the whole Matter upon Oath: And after the Earl of *Torrington* had continued Prisoner in the *Tower* several Months, he was at last Try'd, and unanimously Acquitted by a Court Marshal, held at *Sheerness* the 10th of *December*, where Sir *Ralph Delavall* presided, who acted as Vice-Admiral of the *Blue* in the Engagement: And if I mistake not very much, this was the first time that ever an Admiral of the *English* Fleet was called to an Account in such a manner.

Several Noblemen and others appointed to examine into the Action upon Oath.

The Earl of Torrington Try'd at a Court Martial, and Acquitted.

The Fleet put under the Command of Sir Richard Haddock, Admiral: Killigrew, & Sir John Ashby.

I now return to the Fleet, which, being in good forwardness, was put under the joint Command of Sir *Richard Haddock*, Mr. *Killigrew*, and Sir *John Ashby*, who arrived in the *Downes* the 21st of *August*, and sailing from thence the 25th, were join'd by Mr. *Killigrew* off of *Dover*, with the Ships he brought from the *Streights*, who had been confined at *Plimouth* by reason the *French* were in the Chanel, as has been before related; and the Fleet arriving at *Spithead* the 28th, the Admirals received

Instructions in what manner to proceed, and to take the Ships hereafter mentioned under their Command; but they were then dispersed at the several Places express'd against their Names, viz.

	<i>Rate.</i>	<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Where.</i>
<i>For Strength of the de- signed Fleet.</i>	1 ———	<i>Sovereign</i> ———	} <i>At Spithead.</i>
	2 ———	<i>Sandwich.</i>	
		<i>Coronation.</i>	
		<i>Dutchess.</i>	
		<i>Royal Katherine.</i>	
		<i>Neptune.</i>	
		<i>Duke.</i>	
		<i>Offory.</i>	
	3 ———	<i>Captain.</i>	
		<i>Grafton.</i>	
		<i>Defiance.</i>	
		<i>Elizabeth.</i>	
		<i>Berwick.</i>	
		<i>Hope.</i>	
		<i>Breda.</i>	
		<i>Edgar.</i>	
		<i>Hampton-Court.</i>	
		<i>Expedition.</i>	
		<i>Suffolk.</i>	
		<i>Sterling-Castle.</i>	
		<i>Restoration.</i>	
		<i>Lenox</i> ———	

Rate.	Ships.	Where.
3 —	Warspight. Cambridge. Exeter. Kent. Northumber- land. Monmouth. Essex. Swiftsure. Resolution. Eagle. Burford. Montague. —	At Spithead.
2 —	St. Michael —	At Black- stakes.
3 —	Harwich —	At the Nore.
	Modena hir'd—	In Longreach.
4 —	Sampson hir'd—	At the Nore.
	Woolf hir'd—	In Longreach.
	Charles Galley {	Gone to Hol- land.
	Dragon —	In Longreach.
Fireship,	Hopewell —	At Deptford.
6 —	Sandadoes —	
	Salamander.	
	Fubs Yacht.	
	Griffin.	At Spithead.
Fireships, {	Cadiz Mer- chant.	
	Charles —	

Rate.	Ships.	Where.
Fireships,	Hunter	At Spithead.
	Owners Love.	
	Wolf.	
	Vulture.	
	Hound.	
	Pellican	

So that the whole Fleet, besides *Dutch*, was 43, Great and Small, viz. 1 First Rate, 8 Seconds, 28 Thirds, 4 Fourths, 3 Sixths, and 10 Fireships, of which, all but Eight were with them, and they were all ordered to be Victualled at *Portsmouth*, as follows; The First and Second Rates to the 12th of *October*, and the Third Rates, and under, to the 26th of that Month, having at this time on board them the Earl of *Marleborough*, General of His Majesty's Forces, with upwards of 5000 Soldiers, bound to *Ireland*.

The great
Ships sent
about to
Chatham.

But the Winter Season advancing, the Admirals were directed to send the great Ships about to *Chatham*, which were the *Sovereign*, *Duke*, *Coronation*, *Dutchess*, *Sandwich*, *Neptune*, *Offory*, and *Royal Katherine*; so that they were themselves obliged to go on board the *Kent*, a Ship of the Third Rate.

Provisions also fell very short; nor was there a little want of good Seamen to navigate the Ships: However they put to Sea, pursuant to the Commands they received from the King, and arrived before *Cork* Harbour the 21st of *September* in the afternoon, where they Anchor'd; for the Tide of Flood being done, the Pilots would not venture in. The next day they weighed, and, it being calm, towed in towards the Harbour's Mouth, from the Larboard side whereof they received several Shot from a small Battery of 8 Guns; but some of the Ships fired at them, and two or three of the Boats were sent on Shoar to attack them, so that in little time they were forced from their Guns, which were dismounted, and their Carriages thrown into the Sea; and then the whole Fleet got in without farther interruption.

The next day, between two and three in the morning, the greatest part of the Soldiers were put into proper Vessels, and sent up to a Place called *Passage*, and in the afternoon the rest, together with the Marines, were landed.

The day following, about 5 or 600 Seamen, Gunners, Carpenters, &c. were also put on Shoar, who were very useful in drawing up the Cannon to batter

A Scarcity of Seamen and Provisions.

The Admirals proceed to, and arrive in Ireland.

Proceedings against Cork.

the Town; and the Powder and Shot taken out of the great Ships at *Portsmouth*, was made use of for recruiting the Army.

*The City
of Cork
taken.*

The 25th, before day, 10 Pinnaces were sent up with Armed Men, and Granadoes, to assist in attacking the Town; and the Admirals were put in hopes by the Earl of *Marlborough*, that it would be in the King's Possession in three or four days, as indeed it was; for it was taken the 29th.

*The Fleet
ordered by
the King
to return
to the
Downes,
but some
Ships left
at Cork
under
Command
of the
Duke of
Grafton.*

The next day the King commanded the Admirals to return to the *Downes* with the Fleet, and to leave behind them such Ships only as were needful for receiving the Marine Soldiers. For this Service they left seven Third Rates, one Fifth, one Sixth, the *Owners Love* Fireship, and a Tender to each Ship, under the Command of the Duke of *Grafton*, then in a Ship called after his own Title, and with the rest of the Fleet they arrived in the *Downes* the 8th of *October*, bringing with them, by the Earl of *Marlborough's* Desire, Colonel *Macullicot*, who was Governor of *Cork*, the Earls of *Tyron* and *Clancarty*, Lord *Carr*, Colonel *Owen Macarty*, Lieutenant Colonel *Rycot*, Major *Macarty*, and Captain *Muffy*; and having disposed of the Fleet, according to the Lords of the
Admi-

*Prisoners
sent from
Ireland
by the
Earl of
Marlbo-
rough.*

Admiralty's Orders, by sending some to the *Nore* with Sir *Ralph Delavall*, others to *Portsmouth* and *Plimouth*, and leaving the rest with Sir *Cloudestly Shovell* in the *Downes*, they went on Shoar.

Not long after they parted from *Cork*, The Duke of Grafton killed as his Grace the Duke of *Grafton* was unfortunately wounded there with a Musket Shot from the Walls, when he was Cork. shewing his wonted Bravery and Zeal, by encouraging the Seamen on Shoar, and labouring as much as any of them at the great Guns. His Lordship languished some days of this Wound, and then dying, and Captain *Tennant* being blown up in the *Breda*, a Third Rate, in *Cork* Harbour, the Command of the Squadron regularly fell to Captain *John Crofts* of the *Charles* Galley; and so soon as they had taken on board the General, together with the Soldiers, Marines, and Prisoners, they left *Ireland*, and arrived in the *Downes* the 27th of *October*.

Thus ended the Expedition with the Body of the Fleet: And now it may not be improper to say something concerning the Squadron with Sir *Cloudestly Shovel*, who had been cruizing in the *Soundings*, and on the Coast of *Ireland*, between the Months of *December* and *July*,

July; and convoyed His Majesty from *Hylake* the 10th of *June*, from whose Hand he was honoured (and not undeservedly) with a Commission, appointing him Rear-Admiral of the Blue.

I have already acquainted you, That he arrived from the Coast of *Ireland* the beginning of *July*, 1690. and that he was prevented in joining the Fleet, by reason the *French* were to the Eastward of him. And on the 10th of *July* His Majesty having received Information, that the Enemy intended to send upwards of 20 small Frigats, the biggest of not above 36 Guns, into *St. George's Chanel*, to burn the Transport Ships, he was ordered to cruize off of *Scilly*, or in such Station as he should judge most proper for preventing that Design, and to send Frigats to ply Eastward and Westward, to gain Intelligence of the Body of the *French Fleet*; that so he might be the better able to provide for his own Safety: And they, upon Meeting with Vice-Admiral *Kellegrew* in his Return from the *Streights*, were to give him notice of all Circumstances; that so he might likewise take Care not to be intercepted,

He cruized up and down in the afore-said Station till the 21st of *July*, without

Sir Cloudesly Shovell's Proceedings with a Squadron in the Soundings.

out meeting any thing remarkable ; and then the *Dover* and *Experiment* join'd him from the Coast of *Ireland*, with a Ketch that came out of *Kinsale*, on board of which Vessel was Colonel *Hacket*, Captain *John Hamilton*, *Archibal Cockburne* Esq; *Anthony Thompson* Esq; Captain *Thomas Power*, Mr. *William Sutton*, and six Servants, who were following King *James* to *France*, in order to their accompanying him in his intended Expedition to *England*. They gave an Account, That His Ma-
King James his embarking from Ireland for France.
 jesty took Shipping at *Duncannon*, and failed to *Kinsale* ; but that, not staying there above two hours, he proceeded to *France*, with two *French* Frigats that had lain for that purpose a considerable time ; and that he carried with him the Lord *Powis*, Sir *Roger Strickland*, and Captain *Richard Trevanion*.

The 21st of *July* he received Orders to sail, with the Ships under his Command, to *Kinsale*, to intercept several *French* Frigats said to be there ; and being in the execution of those Orders, near the River of *Waterford*, he had Notice from the Shoar, that the Town had been surrendred two or three days before ; but that upon summoning *Duncannon* Castle, they refused all Conditions offer'd to them. Hereupon he
 sent

Duncan-
non Ca-
stle sur-
rendred.

sent Major-General *Kirke* word, that he was ready to assist him with some Frigats in attacking that Castle, and accordingly Matters being agreed on, he went in with the *Experiment* and *Greyhound*, and all the Boats of the Squadron : But after the Castle had made some fire on them, they let the Major-General know, they would surrender on his Terms ; so that the next day, being the 28th of *July*, Governor *Bourk* marched out with about 250 Men, with their Arms and Bagage, and left 42 Guns mounted in the Castle. Here the Rear-Admiral had Advice, that all the *French* Ships that had been on the Coast of *Ireland* were sailed to *Limerick*, as also all the Privateers and Merchant Ships, in order to secure the Retreat of their Army, if they should attempt another Battel, and be routed : And the Lords of the Admiralty being informed, that they were gone from *Limerick* to *Galloway*, there to embark for *France*, upon a Squadron of Ships that sailed from the former Port, reinforced by Monsieur *Amfreville* with some Ships of the Fleet, they ordered the Admirals to send to Sir *Cloudesly* at *Plimouth*, (where he was arrived with part of his Squadron) four Third Rates, four Fourths, three Fifths,

Fifths, and four new Fireships, which, joined to those with him, would compose a Squadron of five Third Rates, ten Fourths, eight Fifths, and six Fireships; And with these he was ordered in quest of the Enemy: But other pressing Services suddenly calling for the Ships, Orders were sent to him, pursuant to the King's Commands, the 18th of September, to detach 10 of them into the Soundings, for Security of the Trade, and to repair to the *Downes* with the Remainder: Pursuant hereunto he left, under Command of Captain Carter, (who, with several Ships, had joined him) three Third Rates, four Fourths, and three Fifths; and being himself off of the *Blaskets*, got advice, that the French Fleet had been gone from *Gallway* about a week; but that there still remained 5 Sail at that Place. Upon this he sent two Frigats thither, not thinking it proper to go in with the whole Squadron, because 'tis a deep Bay, and that a number of Ships cannot get out, but with an Easterly Wind. Those two Frigats returned to him the 26th, and brought the following Account, That on the 12th of September Monsieur *Amphreville* sailed from *Gallway*, with about 60 Ships and Vessels, whereof 18 were Men of War: That

Monsieur Amphreville's sailing from Gallway, and carrying Lord Tyrconnell, and others with him, to France.

That they took with them only a few sick Men, besides the Earl of *Tyrconnel*, Mr. *Fitz James*, (natural Son to King *James*) *Busslo*, late Governor of *Lymrick*, and about 3 or 400 *Irish*: That on the 15th they were joined by the *Grand Monarch*, and 11 more Capital Ships, which had been in the *Shannon* near a week, and could not get to *Galway*; and that those Ships, having notice of our Squadron's coming, steer'd away right into the Sea, and came not near the Coast of *Ireland*, although there was little reason to apprehend Danger, considering their Strength.

Sir Clou-
desly
Shovell
arrives
in the
Downes.

The 10th of *October* Sir *Cloudesly Shovell* arrived in the *Downes* with part of his Squadron, having appointed the remainder on necessary Services; and there he met with Orders from the Lords of the Admiralty, to proceed to *Plimouth* with all the Ships that were in a condition for the Sea, and from that Port to take others, with which he was to cruize in the *Soundings*, for Security of the Trade. Having gathered together what Ships he could, he proceeded with them to *Plimouth*, and left that port the 3d of *December*; and in the *Soundings* chased several Ships, but could not come up with them, because those he had with him were

He is sent
out to
gain;
and cru-
izes for
some time
in the
Soun-
dings.

were foul. At length the *Deptford* and *Crown* took a small *French* Man of War, of 18 Guns and 10 Patereroes, called the *Frippone*, who had before fought 4 *Dutch* Privateers, and received considerable Damage, and had 30 of her Men killed and wounded : Her Captain's Name was *St. Marca*, who, with the Lieutenant, was wounded, and her Master killed : She fought very obstinately, and yielded not till the *Crown* shot away her Mainmast, and boarded her.

The Rear-Admiral having ended his Cruize, sent some of the Ships to the Coast of *Ireland*, and others into the *Soundings* ; and arrived himself in the *Downes* the middle of *January*, from whence he attended His Majesty to *Holland*, in the Squadron commanded by Sir *George Rooke*.

The Expedition in the Year 1690. ending thus, I shall now begin with the Transactions of the grand Fleet the next Year ; and after that relate what remarkable Passages happened, as to separate Squadrons, or otherwise.

The 23d of *December*, 1690. Mr. *Russell* (now Earl of *Orford*) was appointed Admiral of the Fleet ; and greatest Diligence being used in order to an early Campaign, he had Instructions

He returns to the
Downes.
The Earl of Orford appointed
Admiral of the Fleet :
And what Instructions were given him.

to sail to such Stations on the *French* Coast, as might be most proper for annoying the Enemy, and protecting the Trade ; but he was particularly directed, not to leave the *Downes* till join'd by 20 *Dutch* Ships of War, or at least 18, and that he had appointed a Squadron to look after the *French* Ships at *Dunkirk*, with the Commander in Chief of which Squadron he was to leave Instructions how to join the Fleet upon occasion. But here I must observe, that although he was thus empower'd to proceed, from time to time, in such manner as might best enable him to destroy the Enemy, either by Sea or Land, without expecting particular Orders ; yet was it expressly provided for, That if bad Weather render'd it unsafe for him to keep the Sea, he should repair to, and remain at *Torbay* till farther Order ; the Consequences of which Restraint was not, I am apt to think, so thoroughly consider'd of as it ought to have been.

With these Instructions he received a List of the Ships and Vessels appointed for the main Fleet, the Rates and Numbers whereof were as follows : *Viz.*

Rates:

Rate.	Number.	The Strength of the Fleet.
1 —————	5	
2 —————	11	
3 —————	32	
4 —————	9	
5 —————	4	
6 —————	3	
Fireships —————	20	
Hospital Ships —————	4	
Sloop —————	1	
Brigantine —————	1	
Yacht —————	1	
	—	
	91	

Of which, 57 were of the Line of Battel, besides the *Dutch*, whose Quota generally was 5 to 8.

The Fleet being Victuall'd, and indifferently well Mann'd, the Admiral had Orders from the Queen, dated the 7th of May, to proceed into the Soundings, provided the *Dutch* Ships were joined him, and that he thought it proper to venture the great Ships there at such a Season of the Year. From the Soundings he was to detach a considerable number of Ships and Fireships to Galloway in Ireland, either to impede the *French* in landing Succours, or to

Ordered into the Soundings.

The Admiral ordered to send a Squadron to Galloway to intercept French Succours.

destroy them, if in that Harbour; and it was left to his Discretion to lie with the Body of the Fleet in such Station, as that this Detachment might most readily join him, to prevent the ill Consequences that would have attended his being attack'd by the *French*, when separated.

His Reasons for not sending a Squadron to Galloway.

Althô the Admiral thought it not Adviseable to venture the Fleet so early to Sea, yet he declar'd his Readiness to proceed, if 'twas Her Majesty's Positive Commands he should. He did not approve of sending any considerable Squadron to *Galloway*, because many Accidents might have hindred their joining the Fleet, the Consequence whereof, should the *French* have attack'd him, he judg'd of the last Importance, and that it carried greater Weight than the reducing *Ireland* that Summer; but yet he had no Objection to the sending some Ships thither, if Her Majesty was satisfied that the *French* were so backward in their Naval Preparations, as that her Fleet might with safety be separated.

As also for not leaving Dunkirk unregarded.

He was likewise unwilling (and that with Reason too) that *Dunkirk* should be left unregarded, till the uncertain arrival of other *Dutch* Ships; and his particular Reasons were, ' That the River's

' ver's Mouth would be left open to
 ' the *French*; That the Fishery on all
 ' the Coast would be thereby exposed,
 ' and *Newcastle* not only be liable to
 ' be block'd up, but an Opportunity
 ' put into the Enemy's hands to sink
 ' Vessels at the Bar of that Harbour,
 ' so as that no Ships of Burthen would
 ' be able to float over it.

Nothing was wanting now but a fair
 Wind to enable him to sail from the
Nore; and before he received these Or-
 ders from the Queen, he had thoughts
 of *Torbay* for the Place of Rendezvous,
 till somewhat more of this Month was
 past: But being now Commanded to
 repair forthwith into the Soundings, he
 judg'd *Cape Clear* the most proper Place,

Cape
Clear ap-
pointed
the Ren-
dezvous,
and the
Reason
thereof.

Before I proceed farther, it may not
 be altogether improper to mention here
 some Reasons which induced Her Ma-
 jesty to send the Admiral these Instru-
 ctions. They were grounded upon In-
 telligence received from *Holland*, dated
 the 21st of *April*, That Recruits were
 design'd from *France* to *Ireland* in near
 200 Ships, and that about 150 of them
 were at *Bell Isle*, the Rendezvous for

Intelli-
gence of
Recruits
going
from
France
to

them all, as well as the 25 Men of War design'd their Convoy, of which, five were said to be at the Isle of *Day*, from 50 to 60 Guns: And it was farther reported, That those Transports were loaden with all Things necessary for the Subsistence and Cloathing of Men, with a considerable Sum of Money to pay the Army commanded by Monsieur *St. Ruth*.

*The Line
of Battel
fixed*

The Fleet being now, for the most part, got together, the Admiral composed a Line of Battel, an Abstract whereof follows.

Squadron. Division. Rates of Ships. Small Craft.

1st. 2d. 3d. 4th.

Blue.	{	Vice-Admiral - I	2	5	2	{	One 6th Rate, 4 Frigats.
		Admiral —	0	3	5		Two 6th Rates, 3 Fireships, 2 Ho- spital Ships, one Bomb.
		Rear-Admiral - I	1	6	1		Three Fireships.
Red.	{	Rear-Admiral - 0	2	6	1	{	Three Fireships.
		Admiral —	2	1	5		One 5th Rate, one 6th Rate, 3 Fireships, 2 Ho- spitals, 1 Yacht.
		Vice-Admiral - I	2	5	2		Three Fireships, and small Fri- gats.

Dutch.

Squadron.	No. Small Craft.	
Dutch.	Of 92 Guns--3	} One of 14 Guns, one of 16, two Fireships
	84-----1	
	76-----2	
	72-----2	
	70-----1	
	64-----5	
	50-----3	

So that of *English* and *Dutch* there were 74 Ships of the Line, besides others that the Admiral to the States-General expected, and that there was some probability at least would join the Fleet.

It cannot be said that the Fleet was so well Mann'd as could have been wish'd, though great care had been taken, and the Nation put to an extraordinary Expence in Tenders, and other Methods for impressing and entertaining Men. One thing that gave no little obstruction (besides the numerous Protections) was the Proclamation forbidding the pressing Men from the Colliers, which encourag'd sick Men, so soon as they could crawl from their Quarters, to scramble up to London, and, for the sake of greater Wages, enter themselves on a *Newcastle Voyage*, and

*Interrup-
tions in
the timely
Manning
the Fleet.*

and that without any regard to their being made Run, and thereby losing all they had earn'd in the Publick Service. Besides this, there were many Letters scatter'd, by ill meaning Persons, among the Ships, advising the Sailers to run away; so that no Remedy remain'd to cure this Disease, but recalling the aforesaid Proclamation, or keeping the Men on board, when Sick, and suffering them to die miserably. Many more obstructions there were to the timely Manning the Fleet, but the chiefest was the extravagant Wages given to Seamen by the Merchants, who, for lucre thereof, sculk'd up and down till such time as their Ships were ready to proceed; So that very great Numbers, even of the best Seamen, were by this means render'd useles to the Publick: An Evil that I hope will in time be remedied; for not only That, but proper Measures for the more speedy procuring, and afterwards obliging Seamen, do very much deserve the most serious Consideration.

The 10th of May 1691, the Admiral was acquainted, that there was reason to apprehend the *French* did not only intend to send Ammunition and other Instruments of War to *Ireland*, but also to transport a considerable Number of
Fish

Irish from thence to *Scotland*; and that therefore it was Her Majesty's pleasure he should endeavour to intercept them in their passage to *Galloway*, or to destroy them in that Harbour; for which reason the Queen commanded him to send the Fleet to *St. Hellens*, or *Spithead*, and to repair himself immediately to Town, and attend Her Majesty, that so this, and all other Affairs relating to the Expedition, might be maturely considered of: And Her Majesty concurring with him, that *Dunkirk* ought not to be neglected, ordered him to take care, before the Fleet sailed, for blocking up that Port, if the *Dutch* Ships that were expected there did not timely arrive.

When he return'd to the Fleet he had Orders to send a Detachment up the *Irish* Chanel (as he himself had propos'd) to cruize upon the Coast of *Scotland* without *Cantire*, that so they might prevent the *French* transporting any Forces from *Ireland* to *Scotland*; and he was inform'd, that the *Dublin* Letters of the 13th gave an Account, that the *French* were not then arrived in that Kingdom, but that if a late Report from a *Dane* was true, 'twas very probable they were there by this time; so that it was pressingly recommended to him to hasten to *Galloway*, and endeavour

deavour to destroy the Ships before they could unlade, and receive the Soldiers that were to embarque.

*The Fleet
could not
sail till
join'd by
the Ships
off of
Dunkirk*

This Order would have been immediately complied with, but that the Fleet could not well stir from the *Downes* till join'd by the Squadron off of *Dunkirk*, for several of them were of the

Line of Battle: But since the falling of the Tides would prevent the *French* Ships getting out of that Port, ours were soon expected thence, and when they arrived, the Admiral purposed to send thither a Squadron of 10 Ships, *English* and *Dutch*, such a Number being all he could well spare, so as to have the Fleet of any considerable strength; but it was his Opinion, that they would not be sufficient, and therefore he desired the Lords of the Admiralty to strengthen them. When he discoursed the *Dutch* Admiral about this Affair, he found him not willing to comply therewith, for he alledged that

*The Reasons why
the Dutch
Admiral
did not
spare
Ships for
Dunkirk*

he had positive Orders from the King, not to part with any of his Ships till his number was 36, of which no more than 28 (even at this time of the Year) were yet arrived. This put Matters under some difficulties; for the leaving so many Ships out of the *English* Fleet would very much weaken it, and there-

fore

fore it was desired that Admiral *Almond's* Orders might be so far dispenced with, as to allow of his leaving a proportionable Number of *Dutch* Ships to join with ours ; which might have been the rather granted, because they would have opportunity of returning to the Fleet, so soon as *Minheer Toll* arrived with the Squadron designed for *Dunkirk*.

To this the Admiral received an Answer, That Her Majesty had no Advice from the King, that the *Dutch* Admiral had Orders not to part with any of his Ships till he had 36, but that She had writ to His Majesty, that He would be pleased to send Orders from *Holland* to Admiral *Almond* to follow his Directions. And now the Queen was pleased to command, that the Fleet should proceed, as soon as 'twas possible, according to Her former Instructions, without staying for the return of the *Dunkirk* Squadron ; and withal directed, that if the *Dutch* Admiral would appoint four or five Ships to join ours off of that Port, Orders should be left for those that were to return from thence to make the best of their way to the Fleet ; but that if the said *Dutch* Admiral could not consent to leave such a Number of Ships, a
fitting

The Queen orders him to sail as soon as possible, without staying for the Dunkirk Ships.

sitting Squadron of *English* should be detached, and Orders be left, that when any *Dutch* Ships arriv'd there, so many *English* should repair to the Fleet : And that there might not be a want of Ships for this Service, Orders were lodg'd in the *Downes*, for such *Dutch* Men of War as should arrive after the Fleet's sailing thence, to proceed and join the *English* off of *Dunkirk*, of which Admiral *Almond* was acquainted, that so he might leave the like Orders, lest the *Dutch* Captains should scruple to obey, before they had actually join'd the Fleet.

*A Propo-
sal made
for de-
stroying
Dun-
kirk, but
not at-
tempted.*

Much about this time a Proposal was made for burning the Port of *Dunkirk*, which the Admiral was directed to communicate to the Commander in chief of the Squadron appointed to lie off of that Place, and to leave behind him two Fireships to be employ'd on that Service ; but it was not thought advisable to put the Project in practice this Summer.

The 20th of *May* the Fleet was ready, and the Admiral intended to sail the next Morning from the *Downes* to *Tor-
bay*, and to leave orders for Mr. *Churchill* to follow him thither, with the Squadron under his Command off of *Dunkirk* : To supply the place of which Ships, he appointed three Third Rates,
two

two of the best sailing Fourths, and a Fireship, to join with those three the *Dutch* Admiral was prevailed with to leave; by which Detachment, and the Three sent to *Ireland*, Eight Ships of Force were taken from the *English*.

A South-west Wind prevented the Fleet's sailing, as was intended; and now the Vice Admiral of *Zeeland*, and three *Dutch* Ships, were seen coming to join the Fleet; for which reason, and that if the Wind continued as it was but one Day longer, the Ships off of *Dunkirk* that were reliev'd by others more proper, might also join, the Admiral alter'd his Resolution of calling at *Torbay*, and the 22d of *May* he received the Queen's Orders for proceeding with the Fleet before *Brest*, which broke the Measures he had proposed to take; for he intended to have gone first 10 Leagues off of *Brest*, from thence 60 Leagues right into the Sea, and so to have fallen in with *Cape Clear* at his return; for it was generally believed, that the *French* would first come to *Belk* Isle to get Intelligence, by which means, in their traverse home, our Fleet might luckily have gain'd sight of them. . He was in doubt, that if the Fleet continued off of *Brest* till Mr. *Aylmer's* arrival with the Homeward bound *Smirna* Ships

The Fleet ordered off of Brest, which altered the Admiral's Measures.

Ships, (which was very uncertain) the Men, by their long continuance at Sea, without refreshment, would fall sick. But notwithstanding these reasonable Objections, he assured Her Majesty, that he would punctually obey Her Commands ; and that thô he wish'd for nothing so much, as meeting the whole *French* Force with the Fleet he then had, yet he earnestly desired that no Intelligence, or Motive whatever, might prevail with Her Majesty to take any considerable Number of Ships from him.

The Fleet sails, but is forced back to the Downes.

The Fleet sailed the 23d of May in the Morning, but being got as far Westward as the *Nesse*, were forced back to the *Downes* with a hard Gale at S.W; and soon after there came News from *Dublin*, that the *French* were arrived in the *Shannon* with 100 Sail of Transports, and that the Men of War, their Convoy, cruiz'd between the *Shannon* and *Galloway* ; whereupon Her Majesty signify'd Her Pleasure to the Admiral, that so soon as he had left a Squadron for *Dunkirk*, agreeable to what he propos'd, the Fleet should forthwith repair off of *Brest*, and that a Frigate should be sent to *Kinsale*, to learn from the Lords Justices, whether the *French* were gone to *Scotland*, or in what

Further Orders from the Queen for the Fleets sailing off of Brest.

what manner they proceeded: And if, upon such Intelligence, he judged they might be destroy'd in *Ireland*, or prevented in going to *Scotland*, he was to send a Detachment either to the West of *Ireland*, or through *St. George's Channel* to *Scotland*, with Orders to return to the Fleet, when they should have done their utmost in the performance of that Service.

The Admiral ordered to send a Detachment to Ireland, to destroy French Ships.

It was likewise recommended to him to get the best Information he could of the Body of the *French Fleet*, and to have a particular Regard to the Safety of the Trade expected from *Smirna*. And he was directed to order the Ships on the *Irish Coast* to return to the Fleet, so soon as the Services they were employ'd on would admit thereof; and frequently to send for Orders at *Kinsale*: And when he should think it convenient to come from *Brest*, he was to repair to *Cape Clear*, and to send notice, by the way of *Kinsale*, of his Arrival: But it was again recommended to him, to remain before *Brest*, or thereabouts, if Wind and Weather would permit, till the *Smirna Fleet* arrived, and as long time after as he should judge necessary for the good of the Service. And although it was represented to him what advantages might be taken against *Galloway* by Sea,

The Care of the Smirna Fleet recommended to him.

Sea, yet Her Majesty let him know, She was not willing to have it attempted, till such time as the Army had made those Advances which might enable them to attack it also by Land.

There was at this time Advice that the *French* intended to come out of *Dunkirk* the next Spring Tide, which he was desired to communicate to Captain *Bokenham*, who commanded the Squadron there, and withal to consider with the Flag Officers, the Project for burning that Port, and to give Instructions accordingly. But how little effect any Attempt of this kind would have had, was sufficiently shewn some Years after, when the Crown was, to little or no purpose, put to a very considerable Expence in an Expedition against that Place; of which I shall give a more particular Account in its proper time.

*The News
of the D.
of Ber-
wick's
being gone
to Scot-
land con-
tradicted.*

The 1st of *June*, the Admiral was acquainted, that 'twas hop'd there would be no occasion for sending Ships to *Scotland*, since the News of the Duke of *Berwick's* being gone thither was contradicted, as also the Cause of the Report, which was the sight of several Ships off of *Sligo*. He was also inform'd, that Mr. *d' Cardonnell* of *Southampton* had been assured by the Master and Seamen of a *French* Prize, that

all

all their Fleet, fitted out at *Brest*, (except four not ready) were gone to *Bell Isle*, and that the Ships of *Rochfort* and *Thoulon* had join'd them there, as it was supposed 15 Gallies from *Rochfort*, and as many more from *Havredegrace* had also done.

Advice that the French Fleet Rendezvous'd at Bell Isle.

This News of the *French Fleet's* being gone to *Bell Isle*, gave the Admiral no little Satisfaction, for he was in hopes it might luckily occasion his meeting them; and he was of Opinion, that they would naturally chuse to hazzard a Battel, rather than remain at *Brest*, and expose themselves to be attempted in that Harbour; a Jealousie whereof was probably infused into them, not only by Monsieur *du Quesne*, but by Monsieur *Gennes* also, who were not long before in *England*, and one, or both, consulted with about this Affair, and the latter some time after found an Opportunity of conveying himself to *France*, that so he might be able to communicate what he had heard relating to this Affair at the *English Court*. There were other Reasons also to suspect that our Designs had taken Air; for several things that were contain'd, even in the Queen's Instructions to the Admiral, were hinted at in the *French Gazette*.

Not

The Admiral is informed that the French Squadron was gone back from Ireland; And therefore is advised to sail as soon as possible off of Brest.

Not many Days after, the Admiral received advice from Court, that the *French* Squadron was certainly gone back from *Ireland*, and that, in all probability, the Transports would get clear of that Kingdom before our Fleet could arrive; and therefore he was advised to sail to *Brest*, *Bell Isle*, or those Parts; and the rather, for that the *French* Fleet's attempting our *Smirna* Ships might prove of ill Consequence to *England* and *Holland*. To this were added the following Reasons; That should the *French* Fleet be in *Brest* they might be block'd up there; their Trade be interrupted, and ours secured; and that if Intelligence could be gain'd they had set out a Squadron, with intention to intercept our *Smirna* Fleet, a Detachment might be better sent from thence in quest of them.

Captain *Toll* was now arrived off of *Dunkirk* with the *Dutch* Ships, but 'twas judg'd the Squadron would be too weak to awe the *French* Ships in that Port; so that a Council of War being called, it was resolved, That they should be strengthened by four Ships, in regard Admiral *Almonde* had now his number of 36, and that he was therefore willing to make a Detachment for this Service. But notwithstanding, Captain

Toll

Toll was ordered to join the *English* Ships, he rid before *Newport*, and writ to his Admiral for Directions how he should proceed, who sent a Frigat with positive Orders to him to act in conjunction with our Ships.

The Weather to this very time was so Tempestuous, that the Fleet could not stir from the *Downes* with any manner of Safety ; but that they might be the better able to do Service, when at Sea, the Admiral thought it necessary to take notice a Second time, that he was ty'd up by the Queen's Instructions, to lie off of *Brest* till the *Smirna* Fleet arrived, and desired that Matter might be explain'd ; for that if the *French* Fleet was out, it was his Opinion they ought to be followed to *Bell Isle*, or any other Place. In answer to this he was acquainted, That it was not intended he should be tied up by those Instructions so much as he imagin'd, tho several Lords of the Council had made the very same Objections, but were satisfy'd upon the Orders being read and explain'd to them.

The Admiral takes notice that the Queen's Orders obliged him to lie off of Brest till the Smirna Fleet arrived.

The Weather began now to be fair, so that he determined to Tide it Westward, and to leave for the *Dunkirk* Squadron 2 *English* Ships of 60 Guns each, 3 of 50, and one of 56, with a Fireship,

The Fleet
sails a
second
time from
the
Downes.

The Ad-
miral re-
ceives
advice of
the
Smirna
Fleet.

And,

Of the
French
being at
Sea with
80 Sail.

and a Sloop ; and of the *Dutch*, five of 50 Guns, one of 54, one of 52, one of 40, one of 36, one of 34, one of 26, one of 24, and another of 20, making in all 21 Sail. Accordingly he sailed ; and being the 14th of *June* 6 Leagues S. E. from the *Isle of Wight*, it was by a Council of War of the Flag Officers agreed, that the Station should be 8 Leagues West from *Ushant* ; and that from thence some Ships should be detached, to look into *Brest*, and bring Intelligence. The 19th of *June*, though the Wind had been continually contrary (as it was all along from the time the Fleet first arrived in the *Downes*) he got off of *Plimouth*, but by bad Weather was forced back to *Torbay* ; and now he received a Letter from Mr. *Aylmer* (dated off of *Cape St. Vincent*) by which he judged the *Smirna* Fleet was in *Ireland*, or at least very near the *Soundings*.

The Weather being fair, the Fleet weighed the 22d of *June*, and off of *Dartmouth* an Express came from Mr. *Greenhill*, then Naval-Agent at *Plimouth*, with advice, That the *French* were at Sea with 80 Sail ; so that all diligence was used to get over to the *French* Coast, and on the 28th (*Ushant* being E. S. E. 9 Leagues distant) some Fishermen were taken from the Shore,
who

who confirmed the News, and said the *French Fleet* had lain becalmed four Days off of that Island. Upon this the Flag Officers were consulted, and 'twas resolved to stand over to *Cape Clear* for the Preservation of the *Turky Fleet*, and not meeting with News there, immediately to return to *Brest*; and the Place of Rendezvous was appointed 6 Leagues West from *Scilly* with a Westerly wind.

A Council of War unanimously resolve to stand over to Cape Clear.

There was at this time a Project on foot to join some Ships to the *Spanish Armada* (as that Nation call their Insignificant Fleet) in the *Streights*, that Monarch having offer'd not only to fit out 10, (such as they were) but condescended also not to expect or give Salutes, or to have the Command in Chief in those Seas; so that all things were to be concerted at a Council of War, and each Nation to do the best they could for the Publick Good; but though His Majesty did not think fit to determine any thing in this Matter, till such time as it could be seen what success might be had against the *French* in these Parts; yet afterwards a very considerable part of the Naval Force of *England* and *Holland*, was sent thither, under the Command of Mr. *Russel*, at which time the *French*, with many Ships from *Brest*, and their whole *Thoulon* Squadron,

A Project for joining some of our Ships to act with the Spanish Armada in the Streights.

were endeavouring to make their utmost Efforts in the *Streights*, and had enter'd, with their Land Forces, on the Confines of *Catalonia* ; which Expedition shall be particularly treated of in its proper place.

*The Fleet
joins the
Smirna
Convoy
off of
Kinsale.*

The Fleet being now at Sea, such care was taken to preserve the *Smirna* Trade, that single Ships were appointed to cruize for them on every proper Point of the Compass, while the Body cross'd over to *Cape Clear* ; and being come off of *Kinsale* they were found safely arrived there. Mr. *Aylmer*, who commanded the Squadron, was ordered by the Admiral to come out and join him, and 'twas resolved to conduct them as far as *Scilly*, and there to leave them, if they had a fair Wind, to proceed up the Chanel : But that they might not run the least Hazard, a Frigate was sent before to *Plimouth*, to bring him advice, eight Leagues S. W. from *Scilly*, whether any of the Enemy's Ships were on the Coast. The Admiral had determined, upon parting with this Trade, to go off of *Ushant*, and if the *French* were gone from thence, to follow them to *Bell Isle* : But being afterwards of opinion, that they lay in the Sea purposely to avoid us, he altered his Resolutions, and

and resolved to go into a more proper Station in search of them; so that parting with the *Smirna* Ships off of *Scilly* the 13th of *July*, he first bent his course towards the *French Coast*, from whence he sent a Letter to the Secretary of State, desiring that it might be considered, whether the Fleet, before its return, could be serviceable towards the Reduction of *Ireland*, for that the Provisions would last no longer than the latter end of *August*, and after that Month was expired, he thought it not safe for the great Ships to be out of Harbour; but he desired that Recruits of Provisions might be ready at *Plymouth*, that so the want thereof might not incapacitate the Fleet to perform any necessary Service.

The Smirna Convoy parted with, and the Fleet proceeds off of the French Coast.

No sooner was *Ushant* discovered from the Masthead, but Sir *Cloudefly Shovell* was sent with a Squadron to look into *Brest*, and the Fleet followed at a convenient distance. When he was about a League from *St. Matthew's Point*, he saw about 40 Sail coming out of *Brest*, which proved to be *Brittons*, with three Men of War of about 36 or 40 Guns; and one of them standing to the Leeward of him, he shot down her Main-yard, but she, putting before the Wind, escaped through the Rocks

Sir Cloudefly Shovell ordered with a Squadron to look in- to Brest.

And gets
Intelli-
gence of
the
French
Fleet.

called the *Chickens*, where the *French* Pilots on board our Ships did not think fit to venture. He got Intelligence that the *French* Fleet had been at Sea near 40 Days, that not above a Week before, a Ship of 80 Guns sailed from *Brest* to join them, and that a Water Ship had not been long come in, that left them about 40 Leagues Westward of *Ushant*, where, and up and down in the *Soundings*, 'twas reported they had been ever since they went out.

Sir Clou-
desly
Shovell
decoys se-
veral
French
Ships, by
putting
abroad
White
Colours.

Sir *Cloudesly*, to decoy the aforemen-
tion'd Ships, stood in with part of his
Squadron under *French* Colours, the
others having none at all; and the
French in those Parts being informed,
that their Fleet had taken several *Eng-
lish* Ships, believ'd their Admiral had
sent them home, so that they were
coming out to meet them, imagining
that our Ships which shew'd *French* Co-
lours were their own Men of War, and
that those without Colours were their
Prizes; but finding their Mistake, eve-
ry one shifted for himself in the best
manner he could. At this time the
Marquess of *Carmarthen*, in his Sloop,
took out of a Boat two Men who were
going off, as they thought, to visit
their Friends. These Men reported the
French Fleet to be 34 Ships of the
Line

Line of Battel, which tho the Admiral thought to be almost impossible, yet, the Wind being fair, he made the best of his way to be an Eye-witness thereof, having ordered the Rendezvous, in case of Separation, to be 10 Leagues S. W. from *Scilly*, and for any Ships in distress, by bad Weather or otherwise, *Torbay* or *Plimouth*.

The 27th of this Month of *July*, the Fleet being about 30 Leagues from *Ushant*, several Vessels were seen under Convoy of a Man of War, and two Ships suppos'd to be Fireships; and it was reasonable to believe by their working, that they took us for the *French Fleet*, which we endeavoured to confirm them in, by shewing White Flags and Colours; but one of our Captains being too forward in chasing, gave the Alarm, so that only three of the small Vessels fell into our hands. This Convoy was going to their Fleet with fresh Provisions; and the Prisoners reported they consisted of 76 Sail, from 50 to 100 Guns, and 30 Fireships; That they lay 60 Leagues West, or W. S. W. from *Ushant*, the very Place where our Fleet was at this time, tho none of our Scouts could get sight of them; which created a Belief of what the Prisoners said, That

Several French Ships and Vessels seen 30 Leagues from Ushant, and some of them taken, who gave an Account of their Fleet.

No probability of coming up with the Enemy, who industriously avoided us.

Monſieur *Tourville* their Admiral had Directions from his Maſter to avoid us; in order whereunto, they kept their Scouts at a conſiderable diſtance from their Fleet, on all Points of the Compaſs by which they could be approached, and being chaſ'd by ours they ran away, and made Signals to others that lay within them; ſo that 'twas impoſſible to come up with their Body, altho' the *English* and *Dutch* Fleets ſailed in ſuch a Poſture, as that the Scouts on each Wing, and thoſe a-head and a-ſtern; could, in clear Weather, ſee 20 Leagues round.

The Admiral therefore finding that all Methods for coming up with the Enemy prov'd ineffectual, writ home; deſiring to know how he ſhould proceed with the Fleet; for tho' he thought it not Adviſeable, while the *French* were out, to Anchor in any Bay, yet he fear'd the continuing ſo long at Sea might very much endanger the Health of the Men; for it had not been customary with us to furniſh them with ſuch Refreshments at Sea, as the *French* conſtantly did; nor was it indeed equally in our Power ſo to do, by reaſon of the Remoteneſs of our Ports.

The 29th of *July* Her Maſteſty ſent Directions to the Admiral, That in caſe the

the *French Fleet* were not at Sea, or that they remain'd in such a Station where prudently he could not attack them, he should forthwith repair to the Coast of *Ireland*, for Security of the Merchant Ships; but left him at liberty to come to *Kinsale Road* to refresh the Men, or to remain in such Station near that Place, where he should judge the Fleet might be most safe, and in greatest readiness to execute Orders.

The Fleet ordered to the Coast of Ireland, and the Reason thereof.

The chief occasion of this Order for proceeding on the *Irish Coast*, was the King's Success in that Kingdom, which was so great, that His Majesty thought he might employ a considerable part of his Army this Year on a Descent in *France*; but it was to be given out, that the Preparations were for *Flanders*. It was judged, that this would not only give a Diversion to the Enemy, but probably induce them to venture a Battle at Sea to prevent it; so that it was thought requisite for the Fleet to be on the *Irish Coast*, not only to protect such a Transport, but to assist in it too, by taking on board Soldiers that otherwise could not be embark'd. But in regard the Troops could not be ready in less than 3 Weeks, the Admiral was advised not to leave the *French Coast*, so as to neglect an opportunity of Fight-

Fighting, which probably he would either soon have, or not at all this Summer.

Several
Privateers get
out of
Dunkirk
and do
Mischief
North-
ward.

About this time 15 or 16 Privateers got out of *Dunkirk*, and ranging along the Northern Coast, under Command of Monsieur *Du Bart*, landed in *Northumberland*, where they burnt a House of the Lord *Withrington's*, and did some other unaccountable Mischiefs.

The Fleet having continued in the Station, 60 Leagues W. S. W. from *Ushant*, three days longer than was determined by the Council of War, in hopes the *French* might come there, the Admiral left the said Station the 31st of *July*, and once more stood for *Ushant*: And that he might be the better enabled to keep the Sea, he ordered the Vessels with Beer at *Plimouth* to come to him 8 Leagues West from the said Island, there being a great Want of that Specie in the *English* Ships, and the *Dutch* had no more Provisions than what would last to the 20th of *August*.

Three days after the Admiral left the Station, he ordered some Ships to chase off of *Ushant*, of which number that commanded by the Marquess of *Car-marthen* was one, and his Lordship's Sloop being also in Company, saw 110 Sail, or thereabouts, in *Broad Sound*,
which

which they took to be the *French Fleet* ^{The French Fleet got into} going into *Brest*, as indeed it proved afterwards to be. This being made known to the Admiral, a Council of War was call'd the 5th of *August*, where it was resolv'd, That since the Winds hung Westerly, and that both *English* and *Dutch* wanted Water and Beer, 'twas necessary to sail for *Torbay*, to recruit and refresh the Men, who had been two Months at Sea, where, when he arrived, the necessary Orders were given for putting every Ship into a speedy Condition for Service: But there was a great Want of Men by reason of Sicknefs; and the Supplies of Provisions did not answer Expectation; nor had the *Dutch*, with what they met here, more than would last to the latter end of *September*. ^{Our Fleet comes to Torbay for Provisions.}

The Admiral having represented to the Queen some Difficulties that arose to him, with respect to the several Services required by Her Majesty's Orders, the same were explain'd to him: As First, That the going with the Fleet upon the *French Coast* was repeated to him, lest the Appointment of the other Services might look like a Revocation of that, and consequently an Opportunity of Fighting be thereby prevented. But that, Secondly, in regard such an Opportunity ^{Her Majesty's Orders explained.}

portunity might not, at that Season of the Year. be met with, the next Concern was for the Trade coming from the *West-Indies*: And that, Thirdly, 'twas necessary some Care should be taken of the Transports with the Troops from *Ireland*: Which latter depending on the hop'd-for Success at *Limerick*, it would consequently be the last Service, in order of Time: But that, however, Her Majesty left it to his Choice, to place the Fleet in such a Station as might best answer these Ends, because, as a Seaman, he could best judge of it, and that it greatly depended upon the Intelligence he might have from *Brest*, with relation to the *French* Fleet, or from the Sea off of the Coast of *Ireland*, which probably the *West-India* Ships would first make; or from *Kinsale*, whence he might have the earliest Notice of the Transports intended from that Kingdom. But in regard he thought it necessary the Three-deck'd Ships should be sent home at the expiration of this Month, Her Majesty was pleased to Approve thereof, and directed that they should be accordingly sent to *Spithead*.

Soon

Soon after this, he received a Letter from the Lords of the Admiralty, by which, not only his own, but the Opinion of the Flag-Officers, was desired, How long it might be convenient to keep the Fleet at Sea in a Body? How long they might be ventured at Sea, in case the *French* did not Disarm their Ships, or the Queen's Service should require so great a Fleet? And when the great Ships could no longer keep the Sea, where they might with most safety remain, for some time, before they were laid up, and be ready to join the rest of the Fleet, in case the *French* should come upon our Coast? Whereupon a Council of War was called the 19th of *August*, 1691, where were present the Flag Officers following, viz.

The Lords of the Admiralty demand how long it may be Adviseable to keep the Fleet out in a Body, &c.

A Council of War called.

English.

Admiral *Russell*.
Admiral *Killegrew*.
Vice-Admiral *Ashby*.
Vice-Admiral *Delavall*.
Rear-Admiral *Rooke*.
Rear-Admiral *Shovell*.

Dutch.

*Dutch.*Admiral *Almondé*.Vice-Admiral *Vandeputte*.Vice-Admiral *Callemborg*.Rear-Admiral *Evertsen*.

Who taking the several Particulars into Consideration, determined that the following Answers should be made thereunto, *viz.*

- I. That it was not convenient for Her Majesty's Service to continue at Sea with the Fleet longer than the last of *August*.
- II. But that if the Service did absolutely require their continuing out longer, the utmost Time for their keeping out ought not to exceed the 10th of *September*.
- III. That when the great Ships could no longer keep the Sea, the properest Place for them to remain at for farther Orders, was *Spithead*.

And it was also Agreed, That between 10 and 20 Leagues W. S. W. from *Scilly*, was the most proper Station for the Fleet to lie in, to do Service.

This

This Resolution of the Flag Officers being communicated to the Queen in Council, Her Majesty was pleas'd to let the Admiral know, *That altho' she had, Her Majesty's Pleasure signified upon the Result of a Council of War.* by former Orders, sufficiently informed him what Services She expected from the Fleet, yet since the French were now in Camoret Bay, and that probably he might have an opportunity of attacking them, She thought it ought not to be neglected; and the rather, for that it was reasonable to believe, the Attempt might be made before the Expiration of the Time the Council of War had limited for sending home the great Ships. However, Her Majesty considering the Season of the Year, which was far advanced, and other Accidents at Sea, (not to be foreseen or judged of at Land) did not think fit positively to Command the Fleet's returning before Brest, but declared She would be satisfied with the Resolution of a Council of War in that Matter; altho' She thought nothing so Desireable, or so much for the Publick Interest as a Battel, could it be attempted without too great Hazard on the French Coast.

The Admiral returned an Answer to Her Majesty the 24th, and withal observed, that he had no Orders from the Lords of the Admiralty to obey either the King's or Her Majesty's Commands, *The Admiral takes notice, that he is ordered by the Admiralty to remain in Torbay till further Order.*

as my Lord *Torrington* formerly had, when he Commanded the Fleet; nor any Orders from their Lordships contradictory to their first Instructions; (altho' he had several times writ to them on that Subject) which directed him at his return to *Torbay*, to remain there till farther Orders; and that altho', upon considering the Contents of the foregoing Lettèr from the Secretary of State, he had once resolved to sail; yet in regard of the Hazard, and the Inconveniencies he might be exposed to, he did not think it safe for him to carry the Fleet to Sea without Sailing Orders. The day after he had dispatched this Answer he called a Council of War, who came to the following Resolutions, in relation to the attacking the *French* Fleet in *Camoret* Bay.

A Council of War deliberate about attacking the French in Camoret Bay.

‘ That altho’ the *French* Fleet was there, yet considering the Scarcity of Provisions, and the bad Weather that might be expected at this Season of the Year, it was in no wise Advisable to make any Attempt upon them there.

They also adhered to their former Opinions, ‘ That the most proper Station for the Fleet to lie in, was 10 or 20 Leagues W. S. W. from *Scilly*; and that

that they ought not to continue in a Body longer than the last of this Month, unless there should be an absolute necessity; and if so, not beyond the 10th of *September*. But it was thought necessary (if Wind and Weather would permit) to go before *Ushant*, (and not *Brest*) that the *French* might know we were at Sea, and then forthwith to return to the Station off of *Scilly*.

Nor were they insensible, That a Battel would be of great Advantage to the Publick, but wished the Enemy would give the Opportunity, without putting the Fleet under hazard of Destruction, by attempting them in their Harbours at the approach of the Winter Season.

And upon debating what Squadron of Ships ought to be kept at Sea, after sending in those of three Decks, it was found, That none of the Ships of the States General could continue out; for their Provisions would last no longer than the 20th of *September*, and His Majesty's Orders requir'd their returning then to *Holland*: So that if the Queen expected their longer stay there wanted Orders from His Majesty for the same, as well as for their Re-victualling; for the King being Stadtholder of that Country, their Admirals received all
H their

‘ their Instructions immediately from
 ‘ him.

‘ But notwithstanding it was the Opi-
 ‘ nion of the Council of War, that there
 ‘ was an absolute Necessity for a Squa-
 ‘ dron to be kept abroad, and that if a
 ‘ sufficient quantity of Victuals could be
 ‘ provided, a Detachment of proper
 ‘ Ships might be made for a Month ;
 ‘ yet they were cautious in advising the
 ‘ Number, not knowing what strength
 ‘ the *French* would have at Sea.

*The Ad-
 miralty
 order
 the Fleet
 to Sea,
 and to lie
 in a pro-
 per Stati-
 on to meet
 the
 French
 Fleet, and
 secure the
 Trade.*

The 25th of *August*, the Admiral re-
 ceived Orders from the Lords of the
 Admiralty, prepared in obedience to
 Her Majesty’s Pleasure, signify’d at the
 Cabinet Council, whereby he was di-
 rected forthwith to proceed to Sea, and
 to lie in such a Station as he judged
 most proper, as well for meeting with
 the *French* Fleet, should they come out
 again, as the Security of the Homeward-
 bound Trade, the Ships in the *Shannon*,
 and the intercepting Succours from *France*
 to *Ireland*: But when the First and Second
 Rates could be no longer continu’d with
 Safety at Sea, he was to order them
 to *Spithead*, and there to remain till
 further Directions, first appointing the
 Ships of smaller Rates (both *English* and
Dutch) that were in condition, to cruize
 till the 30th of *September* (if their Pro-
 visions

visions would last so long) in the most proper Station for answering the three last Services before-mention'd; which Station their Lordships were of opinion ought to be between 20 and 30 Leagues S. W. off of Cape Clear, though they thought fit to leave that Matter to his Discretion. He was also further directed, at his return with the great Ships, to appoint three of the *English* Flag Officers to remain with the Cruizing-Squadron, and to order the Commander in chief, at the expiration of his Cruize, to bring home with him the Ships of War in the *Shannon*.

Pursuant to these Orders, the Admiral put to Sea with the very first opportunity of a Wind, and on the 31st of *August*, about 10 in the Morning, made the Land of *Ushant*. The Fleet stood in till six that Night, and then, being but four Leagues from the Shore, tackt and laid it off with an easie Sail till break of Day, at which time they stood in again. At 12 at Noon, being about three Leagues from the Land, and seeing nothing like a Sail, he bent his course for the *Lizard*, 10 Leagues W. S. W. from which place was the appointed Station.

Had the *French* inclined to a Battel, a fairer Opportunity than this could

not have been given them; for they might have had the Advantage of the Weather-Gage on their own Coast.

The Fleet was now in great want of Beer, which obliged the Admiral to desire that some Vessels might be sent to *Kinsale* with a supply, that a stop might be put to the Inconvenience and Clamour which otherwise would attend the Mens drinking Water in the Winter; and he represented it as his own Thought, That without a present Prospect of doing Service, the hazard so many unweildy Ships would run in long Nights, attended with so uncertain Weather, was too great, since the Nation stood in need of nothing more, at that time, than a Squadron strong enough to protect the Homeward-bound Trade, to resist what Force the *French* would probably set forth, and to give Countenance to our Affairs in *Ireland*: All which Services were but too much hinder'd by the whole Fleet's going out again; for had the three Deckt Ships been furnished with Provisions sufficient only to have carried them to their Ports, the others might have been much sooner supply'd, and dispatched to their intended Station: Nor could his Apprehensions be thought without weight, that the dividing our Strength at Sea,

might

The Admiral of Opinion the great Ships ought not to be hazarded without a present Prospect of Service.

might have very much exposed us; for had the *French* got notice of our Intentions, it was reasonable to think they would not have slipt so promising an Opportunity of intercepting so many of the best Ships of *England* and *Holland*; for with an Easterly Wind they might have reach'd the *Lizard*, by which Place the Detachment from our Fleet would have been obliged to pass.

He also objected against the great Ships going to *Spithead*, because the Danger of the Sands there is little less than in their Passage up the River: Besides, an Opportunity of Wind might thereby have been lost for carrying them about, which would not only have encreased the Charge, by keeping the Men longer in pay, but also have delay'd their refitting: A Work that call'd for all Diligence and Application, since so great a Number of Capital Ships were to be Dockt, and Repair'd for the next Summer's Service.

And that I may in some measure shew what hazard the Great, and consequently Laborious, Ships do run at such a Season of the Year, take the following Instance thereof, viz.

The Hazard the whole Fleet run by a Storm in the Soundings, which forced them to bear up for Plimouth.

The Fleet being in the *Soundings* the 2d of *September*, met with such a violent Storm, that all which could possibly be done for its Preservation, was to bear up for so dangerous a Port as *Plimouth*; and what from the violence of the Wind, and the haziness of the Weather, the Ships were so confusedly scattered, that the greatest part of them were not seen when the Admiral himself came to an Anchor in the *Sound*: But when it grew somewhat clearer, one of the Second Rates (which prov'd to be the *Coronation*) was discovered at Anchor off of the *Ram-head*, without any thing standing but the Ensign-staff, and soon after she Founder'd, her Commander, Captain *Skelton*, together with her Company, except a very considerable Number, being lost. Many of the biggest Ships, were not able to weather the Eastermost point of Land at the Entrance into *Plimouth* Sound, and therefore were constrain'd to take Sanctuary there, in that unavoidable Confusion, which a Lee Shore, thick Weather, and a very hard Gale of Wind will always occasion: Inasmuch, that the *Harmich*, a Third Rate, ran on Shore and bulged near Mount *Edgecombe* House, and the *Royal-Oak* and *Northumberland* tailed on the Ground, though afterwards

afterwards they were luckily got off. A great *Dutch* Ship was seen at Anchor above five Leagues in the *Offing*, with all her Masts gone, and several there were that very narrowly escaped the Danger of the *Edystone*. The Ships that were to Windward had indeed the good fortune to carry it clear; but although it pleased God to terminate this Matter with no other loss than is already mentioned, unless in Masts, Sails and Rigging, which were intolerably shatter'd, yet, in the Eye of Common Reason, it might have proved of fatal consequence.

Many Objections were made, at the beginning of the War, against the Fleet's returning so late into the Sea, though at that time it consisted of no more than 60 Sail, and but one of them superior to a Third Rate: And consequently a greater Hazard was now run with a Fleet of 80 Ships, 26 of which were of the greatest Magnitude. Nor could the *French* themselves have desired a better Game, than to see the Strength of *England* and *Holland* contending with Winds and Waves, at a time when they secured themselves in Harbour.

The Admiral having given Orders for refitting such Ships, within his reach, as had received damage, and left

The Admiral arrives at St. Hellens, having left Sir Cloudesly Shovell to fit the Ships at Plimouth

Sir Cloudesly Shovell at *Plimouth* to see the same perform'd. put to Sea, and arriv'd at *St. Hellens* the 8th of *September* in the Afternoon; but before he sail'd, he ordered *Sir Cloudesly* to send five Fourth, three Fifth, and two Sixth Rates, to cruize in the *Soundings*, in such Numbers together, and in such Stations, as might most effectually conduce to the Security of the Homeward-bound Merchant Ships, and then, with the rest of the Ships fit for Sea, to repair to *Spithead*.

The three Deckt Ships ordered up to Chatham, and the great Dutch Ships sent home.

Soon after, he received Orders from the Lords of the Admiralty to send the Three Deckt Ships about to *Chatham*, grounded (as I suppose) upon the Inconveniencies he had represented might attend their continuing at *Spithead*: And His Majesty's Pleasure was signify'd to the *Dutch* Admiral, That he should likewise repair home with the great Ships of the States General. But since Her Majesty had ordered to Sea a Squadron of 30 Ships, and as many more as were in condition, to intercept Succours from *France* to *Limerick*, Admiral *Almond* was forbid to send home any of his Squadron, under the 1st and 2d Rate, that were fit to be continued on Service, but to employ them, on this Occasion, in conjunction with our Ships, without insisting on the exact Proportion. The

The Squadron of *English* and *Dutch* Ships being formed, the Admiral sent a List of their Names to the Secretary of State, and acquainted him, that they should be sent away with all possible dispatch ; but observed withal, That if the *French* arrived at *Limerick* before this Force could get thither, the small Squadron there would run the greatest hazard of being destroy'd.

Sir Ralph Delavall (then Vice Admiral of the Blue) was appointed to command on this Expedition, and ordered to govern himself according to the following Instructions :

Sir Ralph
Delavall
ordered
with a
Squadron
into the
Soundings.

In the first place he was ordered to take under his command the *English* and *Dutch* Ships mentioned in an annexed List, and to send such of them as were first ready, to the appointed Station, between 20 and 30 Leagues S.W. off Cape Clear, to which place he was to follow with the rest as soon as 'twas possible.

There he was to cruize in such manner as he should judge most proper, to protect the Trade and prevent the Town of *Limerick's* being succoured by the *French*, which 'twas reported they did intend to do,

do, with 20 Ships of War, under command of Monsieur *Chateau Renault*.

He was cautioned to have a particular Regard to the safety of the Squadron that had for some time been employ'd under command of Captain *Coal* in the *Shannon*, and ordered to bring them thence at his return home, if not otherwise disposed of by the Lords of the Admiralty.

But notwithstanding these Orders pointed out a particular Station, if (from any Intelligence of the Enemy's Proceedings) he should judge it for the Service to alter the same, it was entirely left to his Discretion; and the time limited for his Cruize was the 30th of this present Month, when he was to return to *Spithead*, and to send the several Ships to the respective Places assign'd for their being refitted at, if he received not Orders to the contrary before.

To these Instructions Her Majesty in Council was pleas'd to direct the following Particulars should be added,

viz.

1. That

1. That he should continue on the Station till the 15th of *October*, unless he received other Orders, or that he did sooner hear of the Surrender of *Limerick*.
2. That he should not recal the Ships from the *Shannon*, without the Consent of the Lieutenant General.

That which occasion'd the forbidding his calling off the aforesaid Ships in the *Shannon*, was a Letter from the Lieutenant General, signifying his Doubts, that if those Ships were recall'd, *Limerick* could not be taken this Year; but that, otherwise, he was in hopes to be Master of it in a Month. The Reasons he gave were these, That he could stay longer before the Town, having Ships to carry off his Cannon, and that, for want of such a Convenience, he might be obliged to leave the Cannon behind him, if he succeeded not. He was also of Opinion, That the Ships would be very useful in preventing Succours from the *French*, and that since they were so near the Town, he did not foresee any great Danger would attend them, for that the Enemy would not be fond of venturing their Squadron 50 Miles up the *Shannon*, at a time when we had a Strength at Sea.

The Reasons why Sir Ralph Delavall was for-bid calling the Ships from the Shannon

Sir

Sir Ralph
forced
back to
Torbay,
after he
had four
times at-
tempted
to sail,
and then
ordered
into the
Soun-
dings,
with part
of the
Squadron.

He had
advice of
30 French
Men of
War and
20 Ships
with
Provisi-
ons, and
where
they were
bound.

The Squa-
dron came
to Spit-
head for
want of
Provisi-
ons.

Sir Ralph Delavall was thrice beaten back by contrary Winds, and having attempted a fourth time to get out, he was the 16th of October obliged to bear up for Torbay, where he received Orders, the 18th, to proceed 15 Leagues S. W. from Scilly, with such part of the Squadron as remain'd; for the King had ordered five of the Dutch Ships from him, two of them to Holland, and the other three to the Streights. At this time Sir Ralph was informed by the Master of a French Ship taken by the Dutch, that he was 10 Days before in Company of 30 French Ships of War, and 20 Merchant Ships, near Bell Isle, the latter loaden with Corn and Provisions; and that it was reported by the Master of one of those Merchant Ships, they did intend, when the Squadron got out to Sea, to divide in the manner following, viz. Ten of the Men of War, with some of the Ships with Corn, for the West Indies; other 10 Men of War, and the remaining Provision Ships, for Limerick; and the rest for the Streights.

The Squadron again put to Sea, but the want of Provisions (a thing which frequently happen'd, and very much obstructed Service) and the bad condition of the Ships, soon obliged them to return to Spithead; nor were the Dutch willing

willing to go to *Ireland*, as was proposed: But the *French* not attempting to relieve *Limerick*, (as 'twas reported, and believed they would) that Town soon surrendred; which Success was follow'd by a total Reduction of a Kingdom that had proved so long troublesome to our Affairs.

Limerick surrendred, and a total Reduction of Ireland soon follow'd.

Having now attended the Motions of the Grand Fleet, and the Detached Squadrons, from the time of their leaving, to that of their returning to their respective Harbours, and there being nothing more of this Year's Expedition at home to Treat of, than what relates to the Winter-Guard, which affords little of Moment, besides what pass'd between single Ships of ours, and those of the *French*, when they happened to meet with and encounter each other, I shall not trouble you with an Account of those Matters, but proceed to such remarkable Transactions as happen'd in the *West-Indies*; and I do the rather choose to mention the same in this Place, altho' the Squadron commanded by Captain *Lawrence Wright* was sent thither towards the close of the Year 1689, for that this Year compleated the said Expedition, and that the whole will thereby the better appear together, which it would not have done, had

had I given a distinct Account of each Year's Transactions in those Parts.

Captain
Law-
ernce
Wright
appointed
to Com-
mand a
Squadron
going co
the West-
Indies.

The 21st of *December*, 1689, the aforesaid Captain *Wright* was appointed Commander in Chief of the Ships and Vessels designed for the *West-Indies*, being one Third Rate, seven Fourths, two Fifths, two Fireships, and one Ketch. He was ordered to Rendezvous with them at *Plimouth*, there to take on board a Regiment of Foot of his Grace the Duke of *Bolton's*, and that being done to proceed to *Barbadoes*, and consult with the Governor and Council how to secure the *English* Plantations, and recover those that might be fallen into the hands of the *French*: But he was not to stay longer there than was absolutely necessary for refreshing the Regiment, and to take in such Men, or Provisions, as the said Governor and Council should think proper. Then he was to repair to such of the *Leeward Carribbe* Islands, as (by Intelligence of the Enemy's Proceedings, and his Advising with the aforesaid Governor and Council) should be thought most for the Service: And if he saw a good opportunity of attacking the Enemy, or their Ships, at *Martinico*, or elsewhere in his Passage to the aforesaid Islands, it was recommended to him to make the

His In-
structions.

the best use thereof that possibly he could.

At the Leeward Islands he was to apply himself to General *Coddrington*, and in all Things relating to the Land-Service, to act according to his Directions, and the Opinion of a Council of War, either for landing the Regiment and attacking the *French* Colonies, recovering any of our Islands, or annoying the Enemy in any other manner. In Enterprizes at Sea, he was to act as should be advised by the Governor and Councils of War, when he had Opportunities of Consulting them; and when 'twas necessary, to spare as many Seamen as he could, with regard to the Safety of the Ships. And that the Islands might not be exposed to Insults, he was forbid to send any Ships from the Squadron till such time as the Governor and Council were informed thereof, and satisfied that the Service did not require their immediate Attendance.

If, when he arrived in the Leeward Islands he found them all in the Possession of the *French*, and that it should not be judged requisite to remain there, or to attempt the Enemy in those Parts, he was, without delay, to repair to *Barbadoes*, there to Consult with the Governor and Council, whether it might
not

not be most for the Service to stay with all, or any of the Ships, or to go to other of the Plantations for their Defence; and pursuant to what should be so agreed on, he was to proceed, and to do the best Service in his Power, till he received Orders to return to *England*. And lest the *French* should attempt any of the *Dutch* Plantations, and prevail upon them for want of timely Assistance, it was recommended to him to give them what Help the Circumstances of our own Affairs, both by Sea and Land, would conveniently admit of.

Captain *Wright* sailed from *Plimouth* the 8th of *March*, 1689, with a considerable number of Merchant Ships under his Convoy; but such was the extremity of the Weather not long after he parted with the Land, that most of the Ships received very considerable Damage, especially in their Masts, Sails, and Rigging; and after he had beat it up and down several days without seeing any of his Squadron, or of the Merchant Ships, he got into the Road of *Funchall*, on the Island of *Madera*, the 2d of *April*, 1690, where he found all the Men of War, except the *Jersey*, *Guernsey*, *Quaker Ketch*, and *Richard and John* Fireship, and about 20 Sail of the Merchant Ships. Here he stayed to

After
much bad
Weather
he ar-
rives at
the Ma-
dera's.

Re-

Recruit, and to take in Wine for the Men in stead of Beer, as is usual in such Voyages, and then set sail for *Barbadoes*, where he came to an Anchor in *Carlisle Bay* the 11th of *May* following, but in so sickly a condition, that 'twas difficult to find a number of healthy Men to get up his Anchors; tho' the Sick soon recovered by the Care that was taken to put them on Shoar, and to provide them Necessaries when there. The next day the Squadron sailed towards the Leeward Islands, and anchoring the 19th of *June* in *Nevis Road*, where the Land Forces were embarked, it was agreed, at night, by a General Council of War, That the Commadore, with five of his Squadron, and three light Sloops, should first sail along Shoar, not only to alarm the Enemy, but to draw them after him, which he accordingly endeavoured to do, but the Army not arriving time enough, the day unfortunately appear'd before they could reach *Friggot's Bay*, the Place appointed to land at; so that, being discovered, they durst not then attempt it, because the Enemy were so strongly intrenched. The following afternoon it was agreed, that *Sir Timothy Thornhill*, with about 500 Men, should, the 22d at night, land in the

Arrives at Barbadoes.

Sails towards, and arrives at the Leeward Islands, and the Land-Forces, embark.

Sir Timothy Thornhill with 300 Men landed.

the Bay Eastward to that of *Friggot's* Bay, and accordingly the Men were all put on Shoar about One in the morning, and begun their March up the Hills by the Assistance of a Black Guide.

*They
march to,
and at-
tack
Back-
Star, de-
feating
several
Parties
of the
Enemy.*

Somewhat before day, being on the West-side of the Top of the Hill, they met with a Party of *French*, who were by our Men soon put to their Heels, and followed so closely, that they entered with them into their Trenches, where indeed they made a stout Resistance for almost two hours: But such Bravery was shewn on our Side, especially by the Officer who Commanded, that the *French* were beaten out of their Trenches, and put a Second time to the Run. In the Heat of this Action the rest of the Army landed, and about Seven in the morning pitched their Colours in the Enemy's Trenches; and being soon after drawn out, they began their March for *Back-Star*, having several Hills to pass over, between two of which the routed *French* had posted themselves in order to a Second Combat.

So soon as our Forces came up, the Enemy fired vigorously on them, but were answer'd so warmly, that after an hour's Dispute they ran, and did not appear again to impede General *Codrington*

drington (who was now at the Head of our Men) in his March to *Back-Star*.

At Eleven in the morning the Squadron weighed and sailed to *Back-Star* Road, with intent to batter the Town and Forts, but the *French* eased them of that Trouble; for at our Approach they struck their Colours, and left their Forts and the Town, part whereof they set on fire, and betook themselves to the Mountains. The Army, consisting of about 3000 Men, (Seamen included) marched on, burning all before them, and in the evening lodg'd themselves in a Plain, about a Mile from the Town, near the *Jesuits* College.

*The Town
and Forts
abandoned.*

I may not here omit taking notice of the Zeal and Bravery of the Officers and Men, but more particularly of Sir *Timothy Thornhill*, who, tho' very much wounded at the first entrance into the *French* Trenches, did nevertheless go on till they were routed, and suffered not his Wound to be dress'd before he came on board the Squadron.

In this Scuffle we had killed and wounded about 130 Men, and Captain *Keigwin*, who was appointed Colonel of the Marine Regiment, (which consisted of about 230 Seamen) was shot through the Thigh, of which Wound

he died before he could be carried on board: And Captain *Brisban*, who acted as First Captain to the Marines, received a Shot through the Body, and died of the same the next night on board the *Bristol*.

The General began his March the 24th towards the *English* Fort, and 'twas thought necessary that the Squadron should sail to, and anchor in the old Road, till such time as the Army appeared, which they did in the evening, and being encamped, rested that night and the next day.

*General
Cod-
dring-
ton mar-
ches with
his Army
to Phrips
Bay.*

The 26th, early in the morning, they marched from *Phrips* Bay, and part encamped about three quarters of a Mile from the Fort, some about half a Mile's distance, and others marched up *Brimstone* Hill, an Eminence that looked into the Fort.

*The Fort
attack'd.*

The 30th, two Chase Guns were mounted of about 9 Feet long, carrying somewhat above a Five Pound Shot, and the General sending the Comma-dore word, that he should be ready next morning to fire into the Fort, he weighed with his seven Ships, and passing by the Fort within half Shot, fired his upper Tire of Guns, the lower not being able to do Service. After the Ships were all pass'd, they ply'd to
Wind-

Windward, and being got a second time into their first Order, they again pass'd by the Fort ; but not being capable of doing any considerable Damage, they ply'd to Windward, and anchored in the Road ; and in this Skirmish was lost the Gunner of the *Assistance*, and five Men were wounded.

The chief Officers being met in Council the 2d of *July*, 1690, it was the general Opinion, That it was necessary to put nine good Guns on Shoar, in order to batter the Fort, and that the Army should intrench, and endeavour to gain Ground on the Enemy. Immediately nine Twelve Pounders were put on Shoar, and, with the help of the Seamen, mounted in their Carriages the 6th ; so that now all was ready but the Platform and Trenches ; but in the mean while the Guns from the Hill gauged the Fort, by beating down the Houses ; nor were the Enemy behind-hand in their Endeavours to mischief us with their great Guns and small Arms.

*A Council
of War
called*

Some days after, the General began his March with 800 Men round the Island, to bring in all the Stragglers he could meet with, and to fight any Body of *French* that should attempt to face him, the rest of the Army staying

in their proper Post, and daily approaching nearer the Enemy, by the help of Retrenchments.

The Enemy sent a Flag of Truce, and the next day Surrendered.

It was not long e're the General returned, and brought with him many Negroes, and several *French* Men who quitted their Arms and surrendered; and the 12th, in the afternoon, the *French* sent a Flag of Truce from the Fort, desiring three Days Cessation, which being followed the next morning with Articles of Surrender, the Fort was given up, the *French* marching out with all the Baggage they could carry, and about 40 Gentlemen were allowed their Arms. When our People came into the Fort, they were not a little surprized to see the Houses so miserably shatter'd, by the Shot only from the two Guns on the Hill, which the Enemy confess'd did constrain them to Surrender much sooner than otherwise they would have done.

Sir Timothy Thornhill with his Regiment sent to Stacia.

The 17th a Council of War was called, and it was resolved that Sir *Timothy Thornhill* should march with his Regiment to *Stacia*, where he arrived on the 19th, without any resistance, and the Squadron anchored there the same Evening. The 20th, there was a Parley, but no Agreement, and the next Day three of the Men of War anchored within

within shot of the Fort, which still held out, although they were warmly ply'd from the Sea, and the four Guns on Shore. The People who defended this Fort (said to be no more than 80) behaved themselves with great bravery, firing only towards the Land, and wholly neglecting what was done against them from the Sea: But the other Battery of two Guns being fixed the 23d, and several shot fired from thence, a Flag of Truce was sent from the Fort in the Afternoon, and the next Morning our People marched in upon the Enemy's surrender.

*The Fort
surren-
der'd.*

The 26th at Night, the Squadron sailed, and the next Day anchored at *St. Christophers*, in the *Sandy Bay*, Westward of the Fort, where they took on board the Guns that were mounted on Shore: But the Army being now very sickly of the Flux, a General Council was held the 3d, where it was agreed not to attempt any other Place till the Men were in better Health, and that the Hurricanes, daily expected, were over; so that on the 2d of *August* the Squadron sailed to the old Road, and Watered, and the next Morning to *Nevis*; but the Winds shifting to the W.N.W, obliged them to weigh from thence, and on the 5th they came to

*The Squa-
dron re-
turns to
St. Chri-
stophers,
and a
Council of
War a-
greed to
make no
more at-
tempts
till the
Men were
recover'd.*

an Anchor off of the *Five Islands* at *Antegoa*, where they put the Soldiers on Shore, and supplied themselves with Wood, and departing thence the 7th, plied for *Barbadoes*, where they arrived the 13th. The Commadore was fearful the Hurricanes might take him in this Road, and therefore sail'd the next Day about 30 Leagues Southward, the better to avoid those boisterous Winds, it being intended, so soon as they were over, to attack *Guardalupe*, if in condition for such an Undertaking.

The Squadron arrived at Antegoa after the Hurricanes were over.

The Hurricanes were no sooner over, but the Squadron sailed for the Leeward Islands, and on the 6th of *December* anchored in *Five Islands Bay* at *Antegoa*; but not finding General *Coddrington* there, they sailed again the next Night, and anchored at *Nevis*, and from thence arriving at *St. Christophers*, they there met the General.

A Resolution taken to attack Guardalupe.

The 11th of *December*, 1690, a Council of War was called, and it was determined to attack *Guardalupe*; in order whereunto the General went forthwith to *Nevis*, *Montserrat*, and *Antegoa*, to get the Army in readiness, that so no time might be lost in Shipping them, when the Squadron should come to each of those Islands; but by reason of the great Mortality, the whole Force would

not

not exceed 1500 Men, if the 350 designed for *St. Christophers* were left there.

The 15th of *December* the Squadron failed from *St. Christophers*, and anchored the 30th in *Carlisle Bay*, where they were in hopes of Provisions from *England*, for there was so great a want, that, with an equal Dividend, it would not last longer than the end of *January*; nor was there less scarcity of Stores: And the Commadore being obliged to send from the Squadron the *Guernsey* and *Quaker* Ketch for the Station at *Jamaica*, the *Success* to convoy the Ships from thence to *England*, and another Ship to do the like for those at *Barbadoes* and the *Leeward Islands*, there remained but seven Ships, and those in the following condition, viz.

The Squadron arrives in Carlisle Bay, but wanted Provisions.

Mary, — Her Foremost sprung.

Tyger, — Had a Jury Main-mast.

Assistance, { Was shot in the Head of
her Main-mast with a 24
Pounder, and Leaky.

Bristol, — { Her Foremast sprung, and
the Ship Leaky.

Antelope, — Her Main-mast was sprung.

Hampshire, In like condition.

St. Paul Fireship.

The

The Vi-
tuallling
Ships ar-
rive from
England

A Council
of War
call'd up-
on notice
that 14
French
Men of
War were
at Mar-
tinico.

The 20th of *January*, 1690, the Vi-
tuallers arrived, under Convoy of the
Jersey, and all diligence was used in the
distributing to each Ship her Proportion.
The 31st, the *Bristol* returned from her
Cruise off of *Martinico*, the Captain of
which Ship reported, That 15 Days be-
fore she saw about 14 sail of *French Men*
of War enter into that Port. Upon
this, Captain *Wright* called a Council
of the Captains, before whom Captain
Haughton declared what he had seen,
and it was immediately agreed, That
six of the best Merchant Ships should
be taken up to serve as Men of War, viz.
One of 40 Guns, two of 32, and three
of 30 Guns each; together with a Fire-
ship, but there was not sufficient time
to fit her. For the more expeditious
Vituallling these Ships, three Commis-
sioners were appointed out of the Coun-
cil, namely, Col. *Lillingston*, and *George*
Andrews and *John Bromley* Esqs; the
Governor himself disbursing what Mo-
ney was necessary for purchasing the
same: But little or nothing came of
this whole Matter, for Captain *Wright*,
the Commander in Chief, falling sick,
and there having not been so good an
Understanding between himself and the
Governor abroad, as might have been
wished, he left the Squadron, by the
advice

advice of the Physicians, upon the score of his Health, and came to *England*; and not long after the Squadron was divided, some to particular Services in the *West Indies*, while the remainder came home, and brought with them the Trade that was ready to fail, as will be more particularly related in the following Account of Captain *Wrenn's* Proceedings in those Parts.

The latter end of *October*, 1691, the said Captain *Ralph Wrenn*, who then commanded the *Norwich*, was ordered to take also under his Command two other Ships of the Fourth Rate, the *Diamond* and *Mordaunt*, and upon arriving with them at *St. Hellens*, he was to receive on board there 150 Soldiers, Recruits for the Duke of *Bolton's* Regiment then in the *Leeward Islands*.

There were also other Land Forces to be carried in Transport Ships, which, with Victuallers and the Trade, he was to convoy to *Barbadoes*, and there to stay no longer than was absolutely necessary for the Refreshment of the Men, but to proceed to the *Leeward Islands*; and when he came to the *West-Indies*, he was to take under his Command the Ships following, viz. the *Mary*, *Antelope*, *Assistance*, *Hamshire*, and *Jersey*, (the first being a Third, and all the rest Fourth

Fourth Rates) as also the *St. Paul* Fire-ship ; but one of the Squadron he was to detach to *Jamaica*, to convoy the Trade from thence to *England*.

It was particularly recommended to him, to employ the Ships under his Command so as that they might best secure our Plantations, and annoy the Enemy ; and in the Spring of the Year he was ordered to return to *England*.

When there might be occasion for any Enterprize at Land, he was to govern himself as should be directed by Colonel *Coddington*, General of the Leeward Islands, and a Council of War ; and upon Enterprizes at Sea, he was to advise with them ; as in like case he was to do, during his stay at *Barbadoes* ; and at all such Councils of War as the Governors should assemble, wherein the Service of the Squadron was required, he was to preside next to the said Governors, and three of the eldest Captains of the Squadron were to have Votes at those Consultations.

Thus was Captain *Wrenn* Instructed, and the 12th of *December* he sailed from *Plimouth*. The 16th of the next Month he arrived at *Barbadoes* ; but before he came to Anchor, he received advice by a Sloop from the Governor, that Nine *French* Ships of War were seen to Leeward

ward of the Island, and that there was among them the *Jersey*, a Fourth Rate of ours, which had been taken some time before off of *Dominico*.

At *Barbadoes* the Commadore was join'd by the *Antelope*, and *Mary*, and there he had advice that the *Assistance*, *Hampshire*, and *St. Paul* Fireship, part of the Ships that were to compose his Squadron, were at the Leeward Islands.

The 23d, the Governor called a Council of War, and 'twas agreed, That so soon as the *Antelope* could be got ready, all the Ships should proceed directly for *Antegoa*; but presently after this a Sloop arrives, which had been sent to *Martinico* with Prisoners, and gave an account, that the *French* had 18 Ships of War in those Parts, and that 8 of them were actually cruizing off *Barbadoes*, and the rest fitting out with all Expedition; so that on the 25th another Council was assembled, and then 'twas agreed, that two Merchant Ships should be taken up, and fitted, and that, with their assistance, the Squadron should attempt the Enemy.

All things being ready, and the Soldiers put on board the Men of War, the Squadron sailed the 30th of *January*, and plied to the Windward, it consisting

sisting of five Ships of War, two hir'd Ships, and two Privateer Sloops.

They continued to cruize five Days, but finding none of the Enemy's Ships, the Commadore returned to *Barbadoes*, and there another Council of War was held on the 5th of *February*, where it was determined, that since the *French* were gone off the Coast, all possible dispatch should be made in following them; so that the Squadron sailed from *Barbadoes* the 17th of *February*, the Commadore having before sent two Sloops to *Martinico*, to make what Discovery they could, and then to join him at *Antegoa*.

Captain
Wrenn
meets
with the
French
Ships.

But when he came off of *Desiada*, he espied a considerable Number of *French* Ships, which proved to be 18 Men of War, two Fireships, and about five or six small Vessels; among which were three of our Ships which they had taken, namely, the *Jersey* beforemention'd, the *Constant-Warwick*, and *Mary-Rose*; and this Squadron was commanded by the Count *Blanack*.

Captain *Wrenn* was obliged to bear down about six Leagues to Leeward, to join some of his Squadron, and to tow some of the Merchant Ships out of danger, and the Enemy followed him, and lay all Night in a Line of Battel, with-
in

in Gun-shot, the Trade in the mean time separating themselves, as usual, some Northward and others Southward.

At Eight the next Morning, some of our Ships had not a breath of Wind, though at the same time the Enemy had a fresh Gale, and by that Advantage four of them bore down upon the *Mary*, which Ship defended her self very well till the Commadore himself could come to her assistance; and at the same time the *Mordaunt*, and one of the hired Ships, namely the *England Frigate*, were warmly engaged. *They Engage.*

The Commadore finding the great Disproportion of Strength, and that the Merchant Ships which were under his Care, had taken the proper Methods for their own Security, did wisely provide for the Safety of the Ships under his Command, and therefore bore away, but with such little sail, as that he secured the three Ships which the Enemy gave chase to, and anchored in *Carlisle Bay* at *Jamaica* the 25th.

By what has been said, the Reader may perceive what little use the Enemy made of this great Advantage, and that they contented themselves with making an Experiment, whether Three of their Ships could beat One of ours, without exposing themselves to what might

might have attended a general Fight between both Squadrons; for had they heartily laid hold of the Opportunity, 'twas not possible that our Ships could have so easily escaped them.

Captain *Wrenn* dying some time after, the Command of the Squadron fell by Seniority on Captain *Boteler*, who with part thereof sailed from *Barbadoes* the 14th of *June*, according to Instructions, and arrived in *England* the 11th of *August* following, having left the rest to attend the Plantations.

*Admiral
Russell
appointed
a second
time to
Command
the Fleet.*

Having now given an Account of Transactions abroad, I return to the Body of the Fleet, of which Mr. *Russell* was appointed Admiral, by Commission bearing date the 3d of *December*, 1691. The greatest Care imaginable was taken to give the quickest Dispatch to the Ships, so as that they might be early out; and the 22d of *April* he had Orders to send from the *Buoy of the Nore* to the *Flats of the Foreland*, under one or more Flag-Officers, all such Ships of the Third and Fourth Rate, and Fireships, as were ready, and to order the rest after them, so soon as they should be in a Condition; and Advice-Boats were sent out for Intelligence of the Enemy's Preparations at *Brest*, and the Ports thereabouts.

Sir.

Sir Ralph Delavall was suddenly expected from *Cadiz* with the Squadron he commanded; and it was reported, that the *French* designed to intercept him and the *Dutch* Ships, in their Passage: To prevent which, Orders were sent him the 29th of *February*, 1691, by the *Groyne* Packet-Boat, to avoid coming near *Cape St. Vincent*, and to keep so far out to Sea, as not to make *Cape Clear*; but rather to sail to *Dingle Bay*, the Mouth of the *Shannon*, or some other Port thereabouts, the better to shun the Danger that not only the Ships, but the Effects of the Merchants, might be exposed to by meeting the *French* Squadron. Lest these Orders should not timely meet him at *Cadiz*, there was the like caution sent to him, by an Advice-Boat, whose Commander was ordered to cruize off of *Cape Clear*, or thereabouts, to look out for him, and to endeavour to gain and communicate to him what he could learn of the Enemy: And if neither he, or Sir Ralph himself, could get any Intelligence, he was ordered to repair with his Squadron to *Cork* or *Kinsale*; but both these Orders miss'd him, and he had the good Fortune to arrive safe in the *Downes* the beginning of *March* following.

Notice sent to Sir Ralph Delavall to take care of the Enemy in his passage from the Streights.

He arrives in the Downes, without meeting the said Advice

Rear Ad-
miral
Carter
on the
French
Coast
with a
Squadron.

The In-
structions
given
him.

There was likewise at Sea a Squadron under the Command of Rear-Admiral Carter, of five Third Rates, six Fourths, six Fifths, one Sixth, three Fireships, one Ketch, one Yacht and a Brigantine, with which he was ordered, the 14th of April, 1692, to sail to the Islands of *Jersey* and *Guernsey*, and there taking on board Pilots, to proceed to the Coast of *France* near *St. Malo*, and Cruize 48 Hours; longer than which time it was not thought convenient he should stay, unless he found an Opportunity of doing Service. From thence he was to sail to *Cape de Hague*, and to stand as near in to *Havredegrace* as the safety of the Ships would permit; and if no Service could be done there, to return forthwith to *Spithead*, if he judg'd it not for the security of the Islands to continue longer on the *French* Coast; in which case he was ordered to send the earliest Advice he could of his Intentions. These Orders were followed by others of the 20th and 23d of April, 1692, the first directing him to repair with all speed to the *Flats of the Foreland*, and the other requiring him, in his return, to keep the *French* Coast on board, and endeavour to join the Squadron with which *Sir Ralph Delavall* was going forth, but upon missing him to return to the *Downes*.

Not

Notwithstanding the aforementioned Orders, he was, *May 5* following, directed to Cruize between *Cape de Hague* and the *Isle of Wight*, and to endeavour to join the Body of the Fleet when it should arrive thereabouts; which Orders were sent to him by *Sir Ralph Delavall*, who on the 24th of *April* received Directions from the Admiral, to proceed with all the 3d, 4th, 5th, and 6th Rates, and Fireships, that were ready, together with the Bomb-Vessels, to the *South Foreland*, and passing in sight of *Calais*, to stretch it away Westward along the *French Coast* as far as *Cape de Hague*, and there to send the smaller Ships as near in with the Shore as with safety they might, to discover what the Enemy were doing at *Diepe*, *St. Vallery*, and *Havredegrace*, at which Places he was ordered to attempt any thing on their Shipping that he should think feizable. When he arrived as far Westward as *Cape de Hague*, he was to stretch it over to the *Isle of Wight*, and finding no Orders there, to return to and range along the *French Coast* till he came off of *Dover*, where he was to call for Orders; but meeting none, to repair to the *Flats of the Foreland*, the Place from whence he sailed. He was caution'd to keep Scouts out to prevent the Enemy's

surprising him, or passing Eastward; and if they appeared, and he judged them too strong, he was not to Engage them, but to retreat to the *Flats of the Foreland*, and send Advice with all Expedition to the Flag Officer there; and upon meeting Rear-Admiral *Carter* with his Squadron, he was to take him under his Command. But notwithstanding he was by this Order directed to return to the *Flats of the Foreland*, when he had stretched it over from Cape de *Hague* to the Isle of *Wight*, other Orders were, upon further Consideration, sent him the same Day by the Lords of the Admiralty, to Cruize between that Cape and the Isle of *Wight*, till join'd by Admiral *Russell*, unless the Enemy came out too strong for him; and then to retire as aforesaid.

The Admiral ordered to sail with the Fleet, and to join the aforesaid Squadron. At this very time the Admiral himself had Instructions to sail with the Body of the Fleet, both *Dutch* and *English*, and to lie between Cape de *Hague* and the Isle of *Wight*, in order to join Sir *Ralph Delavall's* and Rear-Admiral *Carter's* Squadrons: Which Station was particularly appointed, upon considering a Letter of his, wherein he desired, that a certain Place might be fixed for the said Conjunction, and that Orders might be accordingly given to all

all Persons concerned ; though it appears by another Letter, that he was of Opinion it was better for the Fleet to Anchor off of the *Nesse*, or *Beachy-head*, and, when join'd there by the Squadrons, to have proceeded on Service. However, being sensible of what great importance it was to the Nation, that the great Ships should join the other two Squadrons without the loss of a Moment's time, he ply'd it down through the *Sands* with a very scanty Wind, contrary to the Opinion of many of the Officers, and all the Pilots, who were against venturing such a Charge at so great an uncertainty.

He plies down through the Sands with the great Ships, contrary to the Advice of the Pilots. And arrives in Rye Bay.

On the 8th, the Fleet came all safe off of *Rye*, passing through the *Downes* without making any stay : But at Night the Admiral sent to the *Dutch* Admiral (who was at Anchor there) to weigh, and make sail after him, that so no time might be lost. When he was off of *Dover* he sent away Captain *Meesse* with a Squadron of small Ships in search of Sir *Ralph Delavall*, with Orders to him to join the Fleet off of *Beachy*, or to send a Frigate with advice where he was, to prevent any Accident of missing each other. The 9th of *May*, about Seven in the Afternoon, the *Dutch* join'd the Fleet from the *Downes*, and one of

A Squadron sent in search of the two Squadrons.

their Rear-Admirals, with all the Ships under three Decks, were at Anchor off of the *Nesse* ; so that a Council of War was called, where it was resolved (both by *English* and *Dutch* Flag-Officers) as follows, *viz.*

A Council of War called.

That considering the Orders given to Sir *Ralph Delavall*, it would be best to remain with the Fleet in *Rye Bay* 48 Hours, for the more sure and speedy joining him, and that a Ship should be forthwith sent to cruize off of *Beachy* to look for him, and upon discovering his Flag, to make a Signal to another Frigat appointed to lie between *Beachy* and *Rye*, for communicating the like Notice thereof to the Fleet. But it was also agreed, That if the Wind blew hard Westerly, or Easterly, it was most convenient for the Fleet, in the first case, to Anchor off of the *Nesse*, and in the other, to proceed to *St. Hellens*, and Anchor there.

The Fleet sails and is joined by Sir R. Delavall and Rear-Admiral Carter at St. Hellens.

For three Days together the Wind continued Easterly, but no more of the *Dutch* Ships which were expected appeared : And the 11th of *May* the Fleet sailed from *Rye Bay*, and was join'd the 13th at *St. Hellens*, by the Squadrons with Sir *Ralph Delavall* and Rear-Admiral *Carter*, who had met each other the 9th, the former standing over to the
Isle

Isle of *Wight* from *Cape de Hague*, and the other out from *St. Hellens* in search of him. But that all delays might be prevented, the Admiral had before dispatched a Frigate to the *French Coast*, with Orders to Rear-Admiral *Carter* to join him, and left Instructions for all *English* and *Dutch* Ships that should come into *Rye Bay*, to follow him to *St. Hellens*, that so the Fleet might be entire.

The 15th of *May*, 1692, a Council of War was called of the Flag-Officers, as Her Majesty had commanded, and though it was unanimously agreed, that the Fleet ought not to proceed Westward of *St. Hellens*, till there was certain Advice where the *French* Fleet was, and then to endeavour to Engage them; yet it was thought reasonable to sail the first fair Weather to the Coast of *France*, near the *Cape de Hague* and *Barfleur*, and continue there four Days, if it might conveniently be done, and then to return to *St. Hellens*, the Place agreed on by all to be the most proper to rendezvous at.

Much about this time Reports were spread about the Town, that several Captains in the Fleet had given assurance to the Disaffected Persons on Shore of their adhering to them; but Her Majesty

A Council of War agree to sail to the French Coast near Cape de Hague.

The Flag Officers and Captains Address Her Majesty, upon account of some malicious aspersions

Majesty was pleased to let them know, she could not believe that any among them harboured such ill Principles: And that the Queen might be thoroughly satisfied with their Integrity, they unanimously sign'd to a Paper, by which they declared their Zeal and Loyalty, and, at their Request, the Admiral convey'd it to Her Majesty: And since it is a Justice due to the Gentlemen of the Sea to publish the Contents of the said Paper, I refer the Reader to the following Copy thereof.

WE Your Majesty's most Dutiful and Loyal Subjects and Servants, Flag Officers and Captains in Your Majesty's Fleet, out of the deep and grateful Sense we have of Your Majesty's good and just Opinion of our Loyalty and Fidelity, imparted to us by the Right Honourable Admiral Russell in a Letter to him from my Lord Nottingham, do, in behalf of our selves and all the other Officers and Seamen, humbly presume to address our selves to Your Majesty at this juncture, to undeceive the World in those false and malicious Reports that have been lately spread in Prejudice of Your Majesty's Service, by People of an unreasonable Disaffection to Your Majesty's Government, and an absolute Aversion to the Quiet and Good of our Country, that there are some among us who
are

are not truly Zealous for, and entirely Devoted to, Your Majesty's Service. We do therefore most humbly beg Your Majesty's Leave, to add to our repeated Oaths this Assurance of our Fidelity, That we will, with all imaginable Alacrity and Resolution, venture our Lives in the Defence of Your Majesty's undoubted Rights, and the Liberty and Religion of our Country, against all Foreign and Popish Invaders whatsoever. And that GOD Almighty may Preserve Your Majesty's most Sacred Person, Direct Your Councils, and Prosper Your Arms by Sea and Land against Your Majesty's Enemies, let all People say Amen with Your Majesty's most Dutiful and Loyal Subjects. Dated on board the Britannia at St. Hellens the 15th Day of May, 1692.

Having made this little Digression, I shall return to the more immediate Business of the Fleet. When all the Ships, *English and Dutch*, were together, the Admiral proposed, That a small Detachment of 6 or 8 Frigats might hover about the Coast of *Normandy*, and that at the same time the Forces intended for a Descent should embark and be landed at *St. Maloes*, and the Grand Fleet lie Westward of that Place, to protect them from the *French*: Which he thought would not only contribute to
the

the Success on Shoar, but oblige the Enemy to come to a Battel at Sea, rather than lie still, and see their Country invaded.

*A small
Squadron
order'd to
off Ha-
vre de
Grace.*

One part of this Proposition was immediately approved of; and, that Intelligence might be had of the Enemy's Proceedings, the Admiral sent six Sail of light Ships, for 48 Hours time, off of *Havre de Grace*, and the Cape: And it being left to him to proceed as a Council of War should Advise, he sail'd the 18th of May for the Coast of *France*, and on the 19th, about Three in the Morning, *Cape Barfleur* bearing S.W. by S, distant about 7 Leagues, the Scouts Westward of the Fleet (which were the *Chester* and *Charles Galley*) fired several Guns, and being in a short time within sight, made the Signal of Discovering the Enemy, and lay with their Heads Northward. Immediately Orders were given for drawing into a Line of Battel, and the Signal was made for the Rear of the Fleet to Tack, that, if the *French* stood Northward, we might the sooner come up and Engage; but the Sun having dispersed the Fog soon after Four, the *French* Fleet was seen standing Southward, forming their Line on the same Tack with us. Upon this, the Admiral caus'd the Signal for the

*The En-
emy's Fleet
discove-
red.*

the Rear to Tack to be taken in, and bore away with his own Ship so far Leeward, as that each Ship in the Fleet might fetch his Wake, and then he brought to and lay by with his Fore Topfail to the Mast, that so others might have the better Opportunity of placing themselves according to the Manner formerly directed on such an Occasion.

By Eight a Clock our Line was indifferently well formed, stretching from the S. S. W. to the N. N. E, the *Dutch* in the Van, the *Red* in the Center, and the *Blue* in the Rear; and by Nine, the Enemy's Van had stretched almost as far Southward as ours, their Admiral and Rear-Admiral of the *Blue* (who were in the Rear) closing the Line, and their Vice-Admiral of the same Division stretching to the Rear of our Fleet. About Ten a Clock they bore down upon us, and indeed with great Resolution; and the Admiral (who still lay by with his Fore Topfail to the Mast) observing that Monsieur *Tourville* had put out his Signal for Battel, commanded that his should not be spread till the Engagement began, that so the *French* (who had the Wind) might have an opportunity of coming as near as they thought convenient.

At

A particular Account of the Engagement.

At this time Admiral *Almonde*, who commanded the *Dutch*, was sent to Tack and get to the Westward of the *French*, so soon as any of his Ships could weather the Fleet, and the *Blue* (at some distance a-stern) were order'd to close the Line: But when the Fleets began to Engage it fell calm, so that these Directions could not possibly be complied with.

About half an Hour after Eleven, Monsieur *Tourville* in the *Royal Sun* (a Ship of 110 Guns) brought to, and began the Fight with our Admiral, being within three quarters Musket-Shot; in which Posture he lay about an Hour and half, plying his Guns very warmly, but then he began to tow off in great Disorder, his Rigging, Sails, and Topsail Yards, being very much wounded; nor could it be discern'd that any great Endeavours were used to repair that Damage.

Near Two a Clock the Wind shifted to the N. W. by W, and some little time after that, five Ships of the Enemy's Blue Squadron posted themselves three a-head and two a-stern of their Admiral, and fired very smartly till after Three; so that the Admiral and his two Seconds (Mr. *Churchill* and Mr. *Aylmer*) had six or seven Ships to deal

deal with at this very time. About Four a Clock there was so thick a Fog, that not a Ship of the *French* could be seen, and therefore all Firing ceas'd; but it clearing up in a little time, Monsieur *Tourville* was discover'd towing away Northward, upon which the Admiral took the same Method of coming up with him, and ordered all his Division to do the like: And about half an Hour after Five, there being a small Breeze of Wind Easterly, the Signal was made for Chasing, and Notice sent to all Ships within reach that the Enemy were retiring.

At this time several Broadfides were heard Westward, and tho' the Ships that fired could not be seen, it was concluded they were our Blue Squadron, that by a shift of Wind had weather'd the *French*; but it proved to be the Rear-Admiral of the Red (Sir *Cloudesly Shovell*) who had weather'd their Admiral's own Squadron, and got between them and their Admiral of the Blue, and after firing some time, Monsieur *Tourville*, as well as the said Rear-Admiral, came to Anchor with some of the Ships of their Divisions, but could not discover each other by reason of the thickness of the Weather. At this juncture Captain *Hastings*, who commanded

manded the *Sandwich*, a Second Rate, was kill'd, driving through those Ships of the Enemy by reason his Anchors were not clear.

Things being now in great confusion, the Admiral thought it most proper to order all the Ships he could think were near him to chase Westward all Night, and to let them know that he did intend to follow the *French* to *Brest*, believing it more proper so to do than to Anchor; and so it proved; for the next Morning he found himself nearer the Enemy, and to Windward of those Ships that had dropt their Anchors.

About Eight at Night there was Firing Westward, which lasted about half an Hour, part of our Blue Squadron having fallen in with some of the Enemy's Ships in the Fog: And in this Dispute Rear-Admiral *Carter* was killed, whose last Words to his then Captain (Captain *William Wright*) did sufficiently shew, that there was little Reason to suspect his Zeal to the Service; for he recommended it to him to fight the Ship so long as she could swim.

It continued Foggy with very little Wind all Night, and the next Morning 'twas so Hazey, that none of the Enemy's, and but very few of our own Ships, could be seen; but about Eight
it

it clearing up, the *Dutch*, who were Southward, made the Signal of seeing the *French* Fleet, and soon after about 34 Sail were discover'd between two and three Leagues off, the Wind being then at E. N. E, and they bearing W. S. W.

Our Fleet chased them with all the Sail that could be made, and not in a Line of Battel as they did ours after the *Beachy* Fight; for the Signal for a Line was taken in, that so every Ship might make the best of her way. Between Eleven and Twelve of the Clock the Wind veer'd to the S. W, and the *French* crowded away Westward, and we after them; but about Four in the Afternoon, the Tide of Ebb being done, both Fleets anchor'd, Cape *Barfleur* bearing S. by W, but weigh'd again about Ten at Night and ply'd Westward; and near Twelve our Admiral's Fore Topmast came by the Board, being shot in several places.

Our Fleet chase the French.

He continued plying Westward after the *French* Fleet till Four the next Morning, and then, the Tide of Ebb being done, anchor'd in 46 Fathom, Cape *de Hague* bearing S. by W, and the Island of *Alderney* S. S. W; but by reason of the Admiral's wanting a Topmast, the *Dutch* Squadron and the Admiral of the Blue,

Blue, with several of his Ships, got considerably to Windward of him.

Several French Ships cut near the Race, and are pursued.

About Seven in the Morning part of the *French* Ships, being far advanced towards the *Race*, were perceived driving Eastward with the Tide of Flood, having not Ground-Tackle to ride by, for they had the Day they engaged, and the Morning after, cut away all their heavy Anchors. When they were driven so far as that the Admiral judged he could reach them, he caused the Signal to be made for the Ships nearest him to cut and chase them, which they did; but Sir *John Ashby* with his Division, and several *Dutch* Ships who were Weathermost, rid fast to observe the Motion of the rest of the *French* that continued at Anchor in the Race of *Alderney*, according to the Signal that was given him so to do.

The Dutch Admiral and Sir John Ashby ordered to look after them that rid fast.

The Royal Sun, and two more of their biggest Ships burnt at Cherbrooke.

Three of their great Ships being fair under the Shoar, tack'd about Eleven a Clock and stood Westward, but, after making two or three short Boards, the biggest of them (being the *Royal Sun*) ran ashoar, and presently cut her Masts away, and the other two to Lee-ward (which were the *French* Admiral's Seconds) ply'd up to her. This it was judg'd they did, because they could not weather our Weathermost Ships,

Ships, nor get out a-head Eastward. The Admiral observing that many Ships of the Fleet hover'd about them, sent to Sir *Ralph Delavall*, Vice-Admiral of the Red, who was in the Rear, to keep a Strength with him sufficient to destroy them, and to order the rest to follow the Body of the Fleet; which Service Sir *Ralph* did effectually perform.

About Four in the Afternoon, 18 Sail of the *French*, being got Eastward of Cape *Barfleur*, hawled in for *La Hogue*, where our Ships anchor'd about Ten at Night, and lay till near Four the next Morning; at which time the Admiral weigh'd again, and stood in near the Land, but the Flood coming on, he anchor'd. At Two in the Afternoon he weigh'd again, and plied close in with *La Hogue*, where were 13 Sail of the Enemy's Ships hawled in very near to the Shoar.

Monday the 23d of *May*, 1692, the Admiral sent in Sir *George Rooke*, then Vice-Admiral of the Blue, with several Men of War, Fireships, and the Boats of the Fleet, to destroy those Ships; but they had got them so far in, that none but the small Frigats could do any Service: However, Sir *George* himself went in with the Boats, and

L burnt

Many
more of
the
Ships of
War
burnt at
La
Hogue.

burnt 6 of them that Night, and about Eight the next Morning burnt the other 7, together with several Transport Ships, and some small Vessels with Ammunition, wherein not only all the Officers (among whom my Lord *Carmarthen* signalized himself) but the Men behaved themselves with greatest Resolution and Gallantry. At *La Hogue* and *Cherbrooke* were burnt (as is before related) two Ships of 104 Guns each, one of 90, two of 80, four of 76, four of 60, and two of 56 Guns, from which time, to the Peace that was concluded 1697, the *French* did not look us in the Face at Sea, but contented themselves to prejudice our Trade, by their smaller Ships of War, and Privateers.

The
French
Ships e-
scape the
Dutch
Admiral
and Sir
John
Ashby, -
who join
the Fleet.

This Service being over, the Admiral sailed out of *La Hogue* Bay the 25th, and ordered Sir *John Ashby*, Admiral of the Blue, (who was return'd without doing any Execution on the other part of the *French* Fleet) with a Squadron of *English* and *Dutch* Ships, to run along the *French* Coast as far as *Havre de Grace*, and look out for the five Ships which (as he said) he saw stand Eastward: But he came back without meeting them.

The Resolution of the *French* in bearing down upon our Fleet was not a little surprising; for they were not above 50 Ships, from 104 to 56 Guns; and I am apt to think, it did at first occasion some jealousy among us: But, if so, it was soon blown over, every one endeavouring to do what he was able. As for Monsieur *Tourville's* running this Hazard, I can attribute it to no other Reason, than his Master's Positive Orders to fight the *English* Fleet; a Thing he might have otherwise avoided, nay even after we saw each other, for he was several Leagues to Windward: And, as I am credibly informed, all his Flag Officers, who were called together and consulted, did unanimously give their Opinions not to Engage, but that at last he produced an Order under the *French* King's own Hand, which shew'd them the Necessity of doing it.

Doubtless those Orders were given him, upon a Presumption that our great Ships, and the *Dutch*, could not possibly join Sir *Ralph Delawall*, and Rear-Admiral *Carter's* Squadron, (then cruizing on their Coast) before they had opportunity of coming up with them: And had not Mr. *Russel* sailed from the River, even at the very time he did, contrary to the Advice of all

Remarks upon the Resolution of the French in bearing down to Engage.

the Pilots, (as I have already said) the Winds that afterwards happened would have prevented his coming time enough to their Assistance; so that the *French* might, in all probability, have had equal, if not greater, Success over us, than we had on them: But yet the *French* Court (by what Means I know not) had such early Notice of our great Ships sailing from the River, that I durst pawn my Credit, the Vessel which Captain *Wivell* took off of Cape *Barfleur*, had Orders from the *French* King to Monsieur *Tourville*, contradicting those Positive Instructions he had received for Fighting our Fleet; but the Master of the Vessel concealed the Packet, by throwing it over-board, when he found himself in danger of being taken. To this may be added, that Providence concern'd it self for the Safety of the two Squadrons before-mention'd; for several Days before the great Ships join'd them, the *French* Fleet was got into the Chanel as high as the *Start*, but were forced from their Anchors into the Sea by a strong Easterly Wind; so as by this Means they were prevented in making their designed Attempt, they were a second time interrupted in doing it, by the conjunction of the Fleet: And had they
met

met with Success in this well-grounded Undertaking. the Forces that were in readiness at *LaHogue*, and the adjacent Places, would not have been long out of our Country; though if, when there, they had behaved themselves no better than they did in the Defence of their Ships, when burnt, there would not have been much Mischief done; for notwithstanding their Numbers, and the Opportunity they had of making Resistance, the whole Service was performed without the loss of 10 Men, except some that were accidentally blown up in one of our Long Boats.

The Beating the French Fleet prevented their Descent on England.

And here it may be observed, without vanity, that although our Fleet was considerably stronger than Theirs, yet they were beaten by an inferior Number: For by reason of the Calm, and the thickness of the Weather, it was not possible for many of the *Dutch* Ships, or of the *Blue* Squadron, to Engage; whereas had we been favoured with clear Weather, and a Gale of Wind, it would have been next to an impossibility for any one of the *French* Ships to have escaped.

The Enemy beaten by a less Number of Ships

It is not improbable but that the *French*, foreseeing this, might in some measure be daunted, and that it occasion'd their Retreat sooner than otherwise they

would have done; but considering with what deliberation they bore down, and how warmly they ply'd us, there was little reason to think that our Strength baulk'd their Resolution, since they had their Master's positive Commands.

Observa-
tion upon
the Ene-
my's esca-
ping the
Dutch
Admiral
and Sir
J. Ashby.

Having now given an Account of the Battel, and of the Success on the Ships the Admiral himself chased, I cannot proceed, without lamenting the Escape of those which the *Dutch*, and our Admiral of the *Blue* were left to look after. I shall not lay the want of Judgment, Diligence, or ought else, to any one's charge; but since so fair an Opportunity was offered, for destroying the most considerable Part of the *French* King's Navy, such ill Success in that Affair was the greatest Misfortune to us; for had a happy Push been made, the Naval Force of *France* could not in this Age, whatever it might in the next, have given *England* any uneasiness.

The Fleet
comes to
St. Hel-
lens, and
thereby
escape ve-
ry bad
Weather

Since all hopes of meeting them were now groundless, the Admiral resolved to repair with the Fleet to *St. Hellens*, and that Determination was happily put in execution; for such was the sudden extremity of Weather, that had the Fleet kept the Sea, they would have been exposed to very great Danger, especially

cially those Ships that had, in the Battle, received considerable damage in their Masts. But before he left the *French Coast*, he ordered Sir *John Ashby* with 12 *English* Ships, and 3 Fireships, in conjunction with as many *Dutch*, commanded by Vice-Admiral *Callemberg*, to proceed off of *Havre*, and endeavour to destroy several *French* Ships said to be in those Parts, wherein their Endeavours met with no Success, because they had harboured themselves before.

Sir John Ashby sent to destroy some Ships off of Havre but they were Harboured.

The Court of *France* being now very much allarm'd, the Admiral proposed it as the most proper time for making the intended Descent; for although not only King *James* himself, but the *French* also, had great numbers of Men encamped at *La Hogue*, and the adjacent Places; yet the little interruption they gave us in destroying their Ships, might induce any one to believe, that a Body of Men would have made a considerable Progress into their Country, with little or no Opposition. In the mean while the refitting the Fleet was diligently carried on; and altho' the *French*, had they join'd, would have made 90 Ships, from 104 to 50 Guns, yet considering what part of them were destroyed, 70 Sail of good Ships, *English* and *Dutch*, were thought sufficient for

The Admiral proposed to make the intended Descent at this time.

any Service the remaining part of this Year ; not but that it was probable the *French* would come out again, and make a Florish ; but yet there was little reason to believe they would expose themselves to a second Misfortune in one Summer.

Orders
given for
Embark-
ing the
French
Forces so
soon as
their Fleet
came into
the Chan-
nel.

Very lucky 'twas for *England* that our Fleet did so opportunely join ; for no sooner had Monsieur *Tourville* sent an Express of his being on the *French* Coast but Orders were dispatched for the Army's Embarking, which they might have done, and been safely waisted over to *England* ; for as their Strength was much superior to the Squadrons with Sir *Ralph Delavall* and Rear-Admiral *Carter*. so would they have run but little hazard from our great Ships, which must unavoidably have remain'd Wind-bound in the River, had they not sail'd from thence the very Moment they did : At least the Enemy might have hinder'd a Conjunction.

The 12th of *June*, in the Afternoon, there came into the Fleet a Ketch from *Dartmouth*, that in her passage met with a Privateer called the *Cloudesty Galley*, and had three Men put on board her, who were taken by the said Galley out of a *French* Snaw. This Vessel was sent out to gain Intelligence of our Fleet,
and

and then immediately to return to such Port in *France* as she could first fetch, and send away an Express to *St. Malo*.

The Master gave an Account, That there was at the said Port the Vice-Admiral of the Blue, and 25 Ships of War more, great and small, including Fireships; that they had pretty well repair'd the Damage they receiv'd in Fight, and watch'd an Opportunity to get from thence to *Brest*. Upon this

The Admiral gets Advice of the Enemy's Ships got into St. Mallo.

the Admiral sailed from *St. Hellens* the 14th of *June*, with such part of the Fleet as was in the best Condition, and ordered *Sir Cloudesly Shovell* to follow with the remainder. His design was to keep Westward of *St. Malo*, to prevent the Ships getting from thence to *Brest*, and when he came to a proper Station, to consult with the Flag-Officers, what might be attempted against them: And on the 21st he received Advice, that all the Transport Ships were ordered to *Portsmouth*, where 'twas intended the Forces should Embark.

The Fleet sails to prevent their getting to Brest

He was of opinion, that the *French* Ships might get out of *St. Malo*, and go North about, if they would venture on so dangerous a Navigation, unless our Ships could anchor and ride it out before that Port, which he determined to know from the Pilots: But even if

this

this could be effected, he was apprehensive it would occasion their drawing all their Forces to the Succour of the Place and their Ships, and that thereby our Attempt, both by Sea and Land, would be render'd more uncertain.

*A Council
of War
called, in
relation
to the
Land For-
cet.*

The 25th of *June*, 1692. a Council of War was called in *Torbay* of all the *English* and *Dutch* Flags. It was occasion'd upon advice the Admiral had received, that all our Troops were ordered to *Portsmouth*, and that Her Majesty would give no Directions for the disposal of them, till the Flags and General Officers of the Army had consulted, and transmitted to Her their Opinion. The Council of War took into consideration how the Fleet might soonest, and with most certainty, join the Transport Ships, that then it might be debated how to attempt the Enemy at *St. Malo* ; and it was agreed, that a considerable part of the Fleet should be appointed to lie about 15 or 20 Leagues North from the Isle of *Basse*, to intercept the *French* Ships, should they attempt going from *St. Malo* to *Brest*, and that the remainder of the Fleet should forthwith sail to *Spithead* to join the Transports : But it was further resolved, That if the Winds happened to hang Westerly, the whole Fleet should sail

to

to *Spithead* to join the said Transports, or, if Easterly, to continue in *Torbay* in expectation of them.

The Eastern Ports of *France* were at this time in great want of Necessaries for Life, such as Salt, Wine, Brandy, and other Commodities, which our Cruizers prevented their Transporting from one Place to another ; for some Ships that were sent to cruize off of the *Forn-head*, burnt a great Fly-boat of about 400 Tuns, loaden with those Conveniencies, and could not have miss'd the taking or destroying many more, under convoy of two Men of War, had they not precipitately Harboured themselves, in some little Places on their Coast where they could not be attempted.

The Fleet being now at Sea, the Winds came up at N. N. W, and blew for a considerable time so very hard, that it drove them near 20 Leagues Westward of *Ushant*, which Island they weathered not above five Leagues, and several of the Ships received damage in their Masts and Rigging. This Accident may serve as another Argument, that the great Ships, and such Numbers too, ought not to be ventured at Sea, but where they may have room to drive for 48 Hours any way, or let go

The Fleet exposed in a Storm near Ushant.

an

The Admiral arrives in Guernsey Road.

Part of the Fleet sent to observe how many Ships might ride off of St. Mallo's.

an Anchor, and ride ; for six Hours with a shift of Wind makes either side of the Chanel a Lee-shore ; and had not the Admiral luckily brought-to early in the Morning, I am apt to think a Melancholly Account would have been given of the Fleet. However, this Storm being over, he arrived in the Road of *Guernsey* the 3d of *July*, where he was constrain'd to Anchor ; for, the the Weather being thick, the Pilots would not venture over to *St. Mallo* ; nor was there a little reason to suspect their Judgment ; but that which gave the Admiral the greatest Uneasiness, was the Account he received from two Captains who had long used that Trade, that there was not good Ground for more than 40 Ships to ride : so that he called a Council of War, to consider whether it might be most proper for the whole Fleet to go over, or to send a Detachment to view the Place, and they came to the following Resolution, *viz.* That Part of the Fleet should proceed off of *St. Mallo*, and bring an Account whether the whole, or what numbers thereof might ride there. Accordingly Vice-Admiral *Rooke* was sent with a Squadron, in conjunction with Vice-Admiral *Callemberg*, who commanded the Dutch Detachment.

The

The *English* Court was at this time under great Uneasiness, lest the *French* Ships should get from *St. Malo* to *Brest*, and therefore Her Majesty was very intent upon having them Attack'd ; but though eight Days were advanced in *July*, the Transport Ships were not arriv'd at *Portsmouth* from the River ; and in regard the *French* (whatever we could do) might have met with many Opportunities of getting out, the Admiral was of Opinion, that the most probable way of intercepting them, was the Fleet riding in *Camoret* Bay, in case it could be certainly depended on that they were designed for *Brest*.

The Fleet was by bad Weather forced to *Torbay*, where the Admiral did impatiently expect the Return of Sir *George Rooke* ; and the rather, for that the late Winds gave him some Apprehensions of him, considering the Danger of that Coast ; Nor did he think himself under a little Streight, since, when the Fleet and Army joined, a Resolution was then to be taken what to do ; whereas it would have been much more for the Service, had something been determined in that Matter before the Conjunction ; since, if the Forces were oblig'd to keep the Sea till the Place for action was determined, bad Weather

Delay made in the Transport coming to Portsmouth

The Fleet forced to Torbay.

The Admiral was under some uneasiness that it was not determin'd what to attempt with the Forces.

Weather might have exposed them to hardships, and consequently render'd them of little Service on Shore: And as for *St. Malo*, it was reasonable to think that half the Number of Men a Month before, would have perform'd more than the whole Body intended now; for as the Enemy's Fears were then greater, so, doubtless, their preparations for Safety were afterwards carried on with all possible Industry.

Sir Geo. Rooke returns from St. Malo's, and gives an Account of that Place.

The 13th of July, 1692, Sir George Rooke returned from *St. Malo*, who (besides the Report he made of the several Soundings near that Place) gave the Admiral his Opinion and Observations of the Coast thereabouts, which may not be improper to insert in his own words, *viz.*

I. **T**HE Ground is flat and even from Guernsey to Cape Farrel, shoaling a Fathom or two every two or three Miles, all the way over to the Cape: The Ground is generally very rough, and in some places rocky, especially near *St. Cymbre*.

II. The Tides run very quick in the Offing on the Coast of *St. Malo's*; but to the Eastward of Cape Farrel, within 3 or 4 Miles of the Shore, not above two and a half or three Knots at Spring Tides.

III. There

III. There are some Sandy Bays between Cape Farrel and St. Malo's, but not very Commodious for landing Men, because the Land rises in most places quick from the Strand; besides, the River Dinant must be pass'd before they can come to St. Malo.

IV. There are about 35 or 36 Sail of Ships rigg'd, of which 12 lay in the Rasse, and of them four or five great Ships; the rest being up at Salidore.

V. Not one of the Pilots would undertake to carry in any Ship of War or Fire-ships, to make any Attempt on the French Ships at St. Malo, though I offered 100 l. Encouragement to each Man;

July 13. 1692.

G. Rooke.

Upon this a Council of War was called, and, according to agreement, the Fleet sailed from Torbay the 15th, but care was taken the Day before to place Ships on the Coast of France in the manner following; Capt. Nevil in the Kent was sent with 30 Ships, English and Dutch, 10 Leagues North from the West-end of the Isle of Basse: The Adventure and Sandadoes were ordered to lie between Breack and the Seven Islands; The James Galley and Greyhound between the Seven Islands and La Basse; two Dutch Frigats between that and the Forne;

The Fleet sails from Torbay, but a considerable part of it placed to intercept the St. Malo Ships.

Forne ; and all these small Frigats, as well as those with Captain *Nevil*, were ordered to lie close in with the Shore. This the Admiral judged would most effectually impede the Passage of any thing Eastward or Westward from *St. Malo* ; and the remaining part of the Fleet either lay in a proper Station, or cruized, as Winds and Weather would permit.

From the 14th to the 18th, no Advice came from Captain *Nevil*, so that it was concluded the *French* had not attempted to push Westward from *St. Malo* with the last Easterly Wind ; and it was generally believed that they would not stir till towards Winter, for then we could not be so well able to keep the Sea, in order to intercept them. About this time the *James Galley* brought into the Fleet a Privateer of *St. Malo*, which she took off of the Land's-End, the Captain whereof reported, That Orders had been several times sent for disarming the Ships at *Brest*, but that they were commonly contradicted in two Days after. This Privateer came from *St. Malo* the Day before Sir *George Rooke* was before that Port, and said, 'twas then intended that Eight of their Men of War should Winter there.

The 18th and 19th, the Wind was Westerly, with a continual Fog; and the Admiral fearing it might put him Eastward of *Torbay*, thought it most advisable to repair thither, where he took in the Provisions just arrived, and thereby prevented the Inconvenience that might have attended their being separated from the Fleet. His Intentions were to put to Sea again as soon as 'twas possible, that so he might relieve the Squadron on the *French Coast*, which was in want both of Provisions and Water; but before he was able to sail, he received Orders from the Queen relating to the Descent, and on the 25th of *July* consulted with the *English* and *Dutch* Flag Officers thereupon, by whom it was agreed in what manner the Fleet might best join the Transports, according as Wind and Weather should happen; and that no time might be lost in the improving this Business to the best advantage, the Admiral sent an Express to the Duke of *Leinster* (now Duke *Schonberg*) letting him know, that if the Wind continued Westerly, he would come with the Fleet to the Transports at *Spithead*, but if Easterly, he had determined to remain for them in *Torbay*. He was not a little uneasy at the delay that had been made in this

The Fleet returns to Torbay and takes in Provisions.

A Consultation how the Fleet might best join the Transports.

Affair; for when 'twas under consideration in the Winter, it was resolved all things should be ready in *May* at furthest, and had that been complied with, there would have been much more probability of Success. But even now, late as it was, the General Officers had no account of the posture of Affairs at *St. Malo*; nor was there indeed any Resolution taken at Court, what the Forces should do when Embarked, otherwise than that it was recommended to a Council of War (as I have said before) to consider what might be done at *Brest*. However, the Transport Ships being join'd, a Council of War was called the 28th of *July*, on board the *Bredah*, at which were present the Admiral himself, and the several Persons following, viz.

A Council of War of Sea and Land Officers upon joining the Transport.

Flag Officers.

English.

Sir *Ralph Delaval*, Vice-Admiral of the Red.

George Rooke Esq; Vice-Admiral of the Blue.

Sir *Cloudestly Shovel*, Rear-Admiral of the Red.

David Mitchel Esq;

Flag

Flag Officers.

Dutch.

Admiral *Almonde*.

Vice-Admiral *Callemberg*.

Rear-Admiral *Vandergoes*.

Rear-Admiral *Evertsen*.

Rear-Admiral *Muys*.

General and Field Officers.

His Grace the Duke of *Leinster*, Lieutenant-General of all the Forces.

Earl of *Galloway*.

Sir *Henry Bellasis*.

Monsieur *Le Meloniere*.

Sir *David Collier*.

Colonel *Beveridge*.

Monsieur *du Cambron*.

Colonel *Selwin*.

Earl of *Argile*.

And since I cannot better explain the Sense of those Gentlemen, than by giving the Reader a Copy of the Paper that was Signed by them, I have therefore inserted the same, as follows ;

The Matter of burning the Ships at *St. Malo* being maturely considered, and Vice-Admiral *Rooke* and Vice-Admiral *Callemberg* (who were lately sent with a Squadron of Ships before that Port) representing the great Difficulty of carrying Ships in there, by reason of the multitude of Rocks, the rapidity of the Tides, and the Pilots refusing to conduct any Frigats or Fireships into the Harbour, because the Marks might be removed; It is the Opinion of the Flag-Officers, that it is not practicable to attempt any thing against the Enemy's Ships at *St. Malo's* with any part of the Fleet, till the Town it self be so far reduced by the Land Forces, as that the Ships which shall be sent in may receive no great annoyance from the Enemy's Guns in the Attempt: And the General and Field Officers of the Army are of Opinion, that they are not capable to do any Service at that Place, without the assistance of the Fleet.

*Agreed to
be impra-
cticable to
attempt
the Ene-
my's Ships
at St.
Malo,
with the
Fleet*

It was then considered, whether it was feisable to attempt any thing on the Enemy's Ships at *Brest*; and though the Flag-Officers are

of Opinion, That an Attempt might be made there with some hopes of Success, provided the Summer Season was not so far spent; yet considering how far the Season of the Year is now advanced, they do not think it fit to attempt any thing against the Enemy's Ships in that Port, in regard the Fleet may be exposed to very great Inconveniencies, should they be Wind-bound near that Place: And it is the Opinion of the General and Field-Officers of the Army, That they cannot be able to do any Service against the Enemy there, unless they could be protected by the Fleet.

They think it not fit to attempt them at Brest, the Winter Season being advanced.

And it is also the Opinion of the Flag-Officers, That 'tis not safe for the Fleet to attempt any thing against the Enemy at *Rochfort*, the Season of the Year being so far spent, and the Place it self lying so far in the Bay.

Nor at Rochfort.

It was then considered, whether the Fleet might lie with safety on the Coast of *Normandy*, to protect the Army in any Attempt that may be made either at *Havre de Grace*, *La Hogue*, or any Place belonging to the Enemy thereabouts: And

Determined to lie on the Coast of Normandy to protect the Army

the Flag-Officers are of Opinion, That the Fleet may lie with safety on that Coast till towards the latter end of the next Month, in case their Majesty's Service should require it: And 'tis resolved the Fleet lie on the said Coast accordingly.

Besides these Resolutions of a General Council of War of Sea and Land Officers, the Flags themselves came to the following Determination.

The Sea Officers of Opinion 'twas too late in the Year for the Fleet to go to Brest, or Rochfort.

That in regard the Transport Ships with the Land Forces were come to the Fleet, in order to try what might be attempted against the Enemy, either at *St. Malo, Brest, or Rochfort*, it was their Opinion, that some thing might be attempted with probability of Success, was not the Season of the Year so far spent, as not to admit of the Fleet's going with safety to see whether or no any thing might be done at those Places.

Sir John Ashby sent with a Squadron towards the Isle of Basse.

Pursuant to what was determined, the following Orders were given to *Sir John Ashby*, That he should sail with one First Rate, 6 Seconds, 17 Thirds, one Fourth, and four Fireships, together with several *Dutch Ships*, over to the Coast of *France*, and lie with the Body of

of his Squadron about 15 Leagues North from the West-end of the Isle of *Basse*, and by placing some of the Ships nearer to the Shore, endeavour to prevent the *French* passing from *St. Malo* to *Brest*: But he was cautioned to look out carefully for any of the Enemy's Ships that might be coming from the West. In this Station he was to continue till further Orders, for which he was directed to send to *Dartmouth* by all convenient opportunities: And if he joined the Ships with Captain *Nevil*, he was from them to encrease his Squadron of *English* Ships to 30, and send the remainder to *St. Hellens*, with a Westerly Wind, or if Easterly, to *Torbay*, that so they might join the Body of the Fleet.

On this Service he Cruized so long as Weather would permit, and then came in without meeting any of the Enemy's Ships; and being at *Spithead* the 14th of *September*, the Collector at *Comes* sent to him the Master of a *French* Tarran, taken some days before off of *Portland*. This Man gave an Account, That he came out of *St. Malo's* the 7th Day of this very Month, in company with a Vice-Admiral, and 16 Ships of War, from 60 to 80 Guns, and 6 Fire-ships, which by reason of little Wind anchored under *Cape Farrell*, and re-

mained there till the 10th, and then, at six in the Morning, sailed with the Wind at E. by S. for *Brest*.

In fine, although upon the Admiral's parting with Sir *John Ashby*, it was agreed at a Council of War, to proceed to the *French Coast* off of *La Hogue*, and thereabouts; yet in his passage from *Torbay* he met with Orders from the Queen, and thereupon the Fleet, with the Transport Ships, came to *St. Hellens*, where lying a considerable time Wind-bound, and the Winter Season being far advanced, the great Ships were ordered about, the Land Forces landed, and the Fleet divided into Squadrons, according as was judged most for the Advantage of the Service.

A Squadron prepared for the West Indies, under Command of Sir Francis Wheler.

In the Month of *November*, 1692, a Squadron was ordered to be got ready for Service in the *West-Indies*, which was composed of two Third Rates, six Fourths, three Fifths, one Sixth, three Fireships, a Storeship, an Hospital, and a Bomb-Vessel, and about 1500 Soldiers were put on board of them, and Transports particularly appointed. Sir *Francis Wheler* was the Person made choice of for commanding this Squadron, and received Instructions the 25th Day of the aforesaid Month of *November*, from the Lords of the Admiralty, how to govern

govern himself, not only in proceeding to, but also when he should be in the *West-Indies*, and was there at liberty to take under his command three other Fourth Rates, namely the *Normich*, *Diamond*, and *Mordaunt* ; but besides these Instructions, he received others from His Majesty, directing what Places belonging to the Enemy he should attempt, and in what manner he should act in conjunction with the Land Forces, which were commanded by Colonel *Foulkes*.

It was the beginning of *January* before this Squadron could be entirely got ready, and then the Commadore sailed with them, and all his Train, and arrived off of *Dartmouth* the 9th, having received Power (for the greater Grace of the Expedition, from which so much was hoped) to put abroad the Union-Flag at the Main-top-mast-head, so soon as he should be out of the *Soundings*.

The 26th of *January*, 1692, he reach'd the *Maderas*, and having taken in Water, sailed from thence the 29th, and arrived at *Carlisle Bay* in *Barbadoes* the 1st of *March* following, where he was joined by several Ships that separated from him in his Passage.

The Squadron arrives at Maderas.

*Resolution
to attack
Martini-
nico.*

A Council of War, which was here called, determined to attack *Martinico*, and two Regiments were joined to about 800 Land-men found at *Barbadoes*, commanded by Colonel *Salter*, and Colonel *Butler*. There was advice of this sent to Colonel *Coddington*, General of the *Leeward Islands*, and he was desired to cause the Forces in those Parts to meet the rest with all speed under the Lee of *Martinico*. And yet further to strengthen these Forces, upon occasions of Service, there was formed a Battalion of Seamen, of which the Commandore was himself to be Colonel, and Captain *Hawkins* Lieutenant-Colonel.

*A Council
of
War cal-
led.*

The Squadron arriving at *Cull de Sack Royal* in *Martinico*, the 15th of *April*, a General Council of War was called, of Sea and Land Officers; and the Question being put, Whether the Soldiers should land first, and destroy Fort *St. Pierre*, and the Plantations thereabouts, or begin with Fort *Royal*, it was agreed to land at or near Fort *St. Pierre*, and that the Fleet should privately sail the next Morning, for countenancing this Attempt

*Another
Council of
War.*

Being before the Town of *St. Pierre*, the 20th of *April*, another Council of War was called, and a Debate arising, Whether a close Siege should be laid, and

and an Attack made on the Town and Fort of *St. Piere*, or retire with the Forces on Ship-board, and there consider further what was fit to be done: It was moved by the President, (Sir *Francis Wheler*) that every Man should give his Opinion in Writing.

Thus each Officer, both by Sea and Land, took the Matter into Consideration, and having drawn up their Reasons, and Signed them, they were delivered in. Few there were, among them all, if any, except Sir *Francis Wheler* himself, and, I think, Lieutenant-Colonel *Colt*, who were for making this Attempt, but rather to retire, and land in some other Place, in order to spoil the Enemy.

Some, nay most of those Gentlemen, alledged, that the *French* were superior to our Forces; and that at least one Third of our Men being *Irish* Papists, there could be but very little trust put in them; and 'twas likewise alledged, That the greatest Number of our People had not born Arms before this Expedition.

Other Objections there were, That the Roads were almost unpassable, and the Hills inaccessible; and that the Attempt would not only too much expose our Men to the Enemy, but to Sickness also,

also, by reason of the Fatigue ; 800 of the 3000 (including the *Irish*) being either found killed, wounded, or sick, within three Days after Landing.

Others there were, and particularly General *Coddington*, who were of Opinion, That should our Army be beaten, it would be almost impossible to retreat on board the Ships ; by which means they apprehended, that not only *Barbadoes*, but the Leeward Islands, would be, in a very great degree, exposed to the Enemy ; for that the most of the Forces were drawn from those Places for this Service.

*Resolved
to sail to
Domi-
nico.*

In fine, it was resolved at a Council of War held the 22d of *April*, 1693, that the Army should Embark, and the Squadron sail to *Dominico* to Water, and Refresh the Men, who at this time were but in very indifferent Circumstances of Health,

*Resolved
not to at-
tack
Guarda-
lupe.*

At *Dominico* another Council of War was called on the 25th of *April*, and the Question was put whether they should attack *Guardalupe*. It was carried by a great Majority in the Negative ; and thereupon it was resolved to send home all the Forces belonging to *Barbadoes* and the Leeward Islands, with proper Convoys, and that the Squadron should proceed to and rendezvous at *St.*

St. Christophers, to take in Water, and refresh the sick Men.

Sir *Francis Wheler* did indeed take into consideration, the great Charge the Crown had been at on this Expedition, and was therefore of Opinion, that the Place ought to be immediately attack'd; and General *Coddington* was also of the same Mind, as was Colonel *Foulkes*, provided the Squadron and Army could remain there six Weeks, or two Months, to bring in and carry off the Inhabitants; for in less time than that, it was believed it could not be effected, by reason that the Enemy were as strong, or rather stronger, here, than at *St. Piere*; but Sir *Francis* informing them, That the King had positively ordered the Fleet should not continue in those Parts longer than the last of *May*, and the Forces belonging to *Barbadoes* pressing very earnestly to be gone, the Squadron sailed to the Leeward Islands, where they staid some time to refresh themselves, and then bent their Course to *New England*, and arrived at *Boston* the 12th of *June*, Colonel *Foulkes* dying soon after he came on board in the Road of *St. Christophers*.

The Squadron arrives at New-England

Sir *Francis Wheler*, according to the Commands he had received from His Majesty, proposed to Sir *William Phips*,
Gover-

Reasons
for not
attempt-
ing
Que-
beck.

Governor of *New England*, the going to and attempting *Quebeck*; but he having not had any prævious Advice thereof, which he said he ought to have had four Months before, so as to have got all things ready; and that Expedition requiring the Squadron's sailing by the first of *July*, and a strength of 4000 Men, at least, which very much exceeded the Numbers we had, that Affair sunk: So that on the first of *July* the recovered Men began to Embark, and the 3d of *August* the Squadron sailed from *Boston*.

The Squa-
dron ar-
rives at
New-
found-
land.

The Commadore being desirous to do something, though in so weak a Condition, before he reach'd *England*, steer'd for *Newfoundland*, and arrived at *Placentia* the 18th of *August*. He was informed, that the *French* were very strong there, not only in large Privateers, (for in the whole Expedition there was no news of a Squadron of Ships of War) but in at least 2000 Men, reckoning Soldiers and Inhabitants. That the Mouth of the Harbour, (which was not above a Ship's length in breadth) was guarded by three Cables a-cross, and a strong Fort of more than 30 large Cannon, and Pallisado'd to the Land; and the Hills also just over the Fort fortified with two other stone Forts, well secured with Pallisadoes. Upon

Upon this he called a Council of War of the Sea and Land Officers, and earnestly press'd, that the Land Forces might make the Attempt on Shore, while the Fleet did the same by Sea, and that some Soldiers might be taken from the Transport-Ships to assist in the Men of War, which had not more Men than were sufficient to ply one Tier of their Guns. This was rejected by the Land Officers; and there was 11 to 6 of those of the Sea, against going in with the Ships to batter the Great Fort: However, he sent some of the Frigats, and part of the Soldiers under Command of Major *Rabinsner*, to destroy the *French* at *St. Peters*, a Place of Note, which they effectually did.

A Council of War called, and resolved not to attempt Placentia.

The 28th of *August*, 1693, the Squadron arrived in the Bay of *Bulls* in *Newfoundland*, and took in Water and Wood; and being kept there by bad Weather till the 22d of *September*, the Commadore then sailed for *England*, and on the 18th of *October* he received, at *Portsmouth*, a Commission, appointing him Rear-Admiral of the Red.

Sir Fr. Wheeler arrives in England.

Thus ended this Expedition, wherein though we gained no manner of Reputation, yet was it attended with the unfortunate Loss of many very good Officers and Men: And it had like to have hap-

happen'd much worse, through the want of Hands sufficient to bring the Ships home ; which were likewise in a very bad Condition, both as to their Hull, and other Particulars.

*The Fleet
put under
Command
of Mr.
Killi-
grew, Sir
R. Dela-
vall, and
Sir Clou-
desly
Shovell.*

The 18th of March, 1692, Mr. Killigrew, Sir Ralph Delavall, and Sir Cloudesly Shovell, (who were jointly appointed Admirals of the Fleet) received Instructions from the Lords of the Admiralty to proceed to Sea, and (without expecting particular Orders, by which Opportunities of Service might be lost) to use their utmost endeavours to annoy the Enemy, and protect the Trade. The Number of Ships (besides *Dutch*, which was commonly Five to our Eight) appointed for the Body of the Fleet, was 6 First Rates, 10 Seconds, 28 Thirds, 6 Fourts, 4 Fifths, and 5 Sixth Rates; together with 17 Fireships, one Bomb-Vessel, and 4 Hospitals.

There was at this time a great want of Men, and for the more speedy raising them, general Orders were issued (but soon after contradicted) for taking half the Seamen from all the Privateers ; but that the Fleet might be put into as early a Condition for Service as 'twas possible, 5 Regiments of Foot were ordered to be embarked at *Portsmouth* ; and

*Five Re-
giments
of Foot
from
1*

that the Provisions might last the longer, the Ships Companies were put to six to four Men's Allowance of all Species, except Beer; (which they was duly paid for) for there was not yet such a Quantity provided, as would enable them to keep at Sea so long as the Service might require.

The Fleet arrived at *St. Hellens* the 7th of *May*, where the Admirals formed their Line of Battel; and since it is not altogether necessary to insert the same in the exact manner, with every Ship's Name, and that of her Commander, as they were appointed to follow each other, I shall explain the Strength of each Division thus, *viz.*

The Admirals arrive at St. Hellens, and form their Line of Battel.

N

English

<i>English.</i>		<i>Rates.</i>						<i>Englb.</i>
		1st	2d	3d	4th	5th	6th	
In the Division of the Vice- Admiral of the Blue.	}	0	3	5	1	0	0	3
Admiral of the Blue.	}	2	1	5	1	0	1	3
Rear Admiral of the Blue.	}	0	2	6	1	0	0	2
Rear-Admiral of the Red.	}	1	2	5	1	0	0	2
Admiral of the Red.	}	3	1	5	1	2	2	3

Dutch.

Vice-Admiral.	1	2	4	2	0	0	2
Admiral.	2	1	6	1	0	2	3
Another Vice- Admiral.	3	0	4	3	0	1	1

12 12 40 11 2 6 19

According to this Line of Battel, the Fleet, *English* and *Dutch*, would, when join'd, have consisted of 102 Sail, besides Brigantines, Bomb-Vessels, and Hospital Ships, whereof 75 were Ships of the Line; and although those of the *Dutch*, which I reckon according to Rates, (a Method not used by that Country)

Country) are more or less inferior to those of *England*; yet I have taken great care to marshal them together, as near as those Differences would admit of.

The Day after the Fleet arrived at *Spithead*, the Flag-Officers took into Consideration, according to Her Majesty's Commands, what number of Ships might be proper for them to carry to *Brest*, and what might be attempted when there, and did resolve, That if the Fleet could be made up to 70, they would proceed to the said Port, and endeavour to attempt the *French Ships* there; and the Reason why they insisted on such a Number, was the Uncertainty whether the Ships from *Thoulon* had joined them.

A Consultation about attempting the Ships at Brest.

Another Council of War was called the 15th of May, 1693, to consider how the *Streights Fleet*, with the Trade to *Turky*, might most safely proceed under the Conduct of Sir *George Rooke*. Having debated the Matter, they were of Opinion, That if the *Thoulon Squadron* was come out of the *Streights*, and join'd those of *Brest*, 10 Men of War, a small Frigate, and a Fireship, would be sufficient for the aforesaid Convoy, and that the separate Convoy for *Spain* ought to proceed with them, and the

Another Consultation about sending forward the Turkey Convoy.

Body of the Fleet accompany them both out of the Chanel : But that if the *French* were not joined, it was proper the whole Squadron should forthwith proceed with their Convoys. On the other hand, if the *French* Fleet was joined, and at Sea, it was judged advisable for the main Fleet to proceed with the *Mediterranean* Squadron so far as a Council of War should think proper, when in the *Soundings* ; but if no certain Advice could be got of the *Thoulon* Squadron's being come out of the *Streights*, or where they were, before the Fleet sailed from *St. Hellens*, it was determined that the *Mediterranean* Squadron (that is to say, 10 Men of War, a Frigate and a Fireship) should remain at *St. Hellens* till Intelligence could be gained.

The Admirals ordered by the Lords of the Admiralty to sail with the Fleet and the Turkey Con-
voy.

The 19th of May, 1693, the Lords of the Admiralty (in obedience to Her Majesty's Commands) sent Orders to the Admirals to sail in company of the Squadron bound to the *Mediterranean*, and of the *Virginia* and *Bilboa* Convoys, and that after they had proceeded with them as far as it should be judg'd requisite, they should order the *Streights* Squadron to steer such Course to *Cadiz*, as should be thought most safe by a Council of War, with respect as well
to

to the *Brest* Fleet, if gone to Sea, as to the *Thoulon* Squadron; and then with the Body of the Fleet to put in Execution the Instructions they had received.

A Council of War being hereupon called, it was determined, That the Main Fleet, and *Mediterranean* Squadron, should proceed together 30 Leagues W. S. W. off of *Ushant*, and that when the Admirals spread a Blue Flag at the Main-top-mast-head, and fired 3 Guns, Sir *George Rooke*, as well as the other Convoys, should proceed, according to the Orders they had received from the Lords of the Admiralty.

The Fleet being on the 4th of June 30 Leagues W. S. W. off *Ushant*, a Council of War was called of the Flag Officers, both *Dutch* and *English*, and 'twas then determined, That since they had no Intelligence of the Enemy, the Fleet should accompany the *Mediterranean* Squadron 20 Leagues further, and then return to the former Station, and take up the Cruizers, and from thence proceed to the Rendezvous 10 Leagues N. W. off *Ushant*: So that leaving the *Streights* Squadron on the 6th in the Evening, they arrived at the said Rendezvous two Days after.

Determination where to part with the Turkey Convoy

Agreed to accompany the said Convoy 20 Leagues further.

Advice
from Sir
Lambert
Black-
well of
the
Thou-
lon Squa-
dron.

During this time they met with no Intelligence of the Enemy's Fleet ; but the Lords of the Admiralty received Advice on the 13th, from Sir *Lambert Blackwell*, (who was then Consul at *Leghorne*) which he had from the Master of a *Maltese* Bark, that the *Thoulon* Squadron, with 35 Galleys, were ready to proceed from *Marseilles* ; and some Days before this the Country was alarm'd with a Number of Ships seen off of *Scilly*, which was thought to be the *French* Fleet, but proved to be only *Danes* and *Swedes*, under Convoy of a Man of War of about 44 Guns.

None of
the En-
emy's Ships
could be
seen at
Brest.

The Fle-
et was
seen off
Scilly.

Some Ships being sent to gain Intelligence on the *French* Coast, one of them, the *Warspight*, return'd to the Fleet the 17th of *June*, with an Account, That she had stood so near in with *St. Mat-ther's* Point, as to bring *Brest* Bay open, and that neither Ship or other Vessel could be discover'd there, except two or three small Fishing Boats ; so that the Admirals determined to sail off of *Scilly* to look for the Enemy, (having not yet been inform'd that the Ships which gave the Alarm were only *Danes* and *Swedes*) and from thence to repair to *Torbay* with the 69 Ships of the Line of Battel they had with them, of which 45 were *English*, and 24 *Dutch*.
There

There they arrived the 21st of *June*, and were in great want of several Species of Provisions, but more especially Beer, Butter and Cheese. A Council of War was called the 23d, upon Commands from Her Majesty, concerning *Sir George Rooke*, it being apprehended that he might be in danger from the *French Fleet*, as indeed it happened.

It arrives in Torbay,

It was by this Council determined to proceed to *Lisbon*, and join the *Mediterranean Squadron*; but it was found upon strict Enquiry, they had not Provisions so to do. Nevertheless, since it was judged that Squadron did greatly require the assistance of the Fleet, it was resolved to proceed in search of the Enemy, if in 14 Days time they could be compleated with Victuals for 10 Weeks at whole Allowance.

Resolution of a Council of War, upon Apprehensions of the Turkey Convoys being in Danger.

Much about this time Advice came from the Consul of *O-Porto*, dated the 9th of *June*, That on the 1st of that Month, there arrived News at *Lisbon*, by Express from *Algarve*, That Monsieur *Tourville* with the *French Fleet*, consisting of 75 Men of War, and several other Ships and Vessels, in all to the Number of 114, were come into the Bay of *Lagos*, between Cape *St. Vincent* and *Faro*. 'Twas said that at first they shew'd *English Colours*, and some of

Advice received of the French Fleet's being in Lagos Bay.

them *Dutch*, and that by *English* Men sent on Shore, they pretended to be of those Nations; but that the next Day the Governor sending on board of the Admiral, he insinuated as if he had been forced in there by bad Weather, and that he intended to sail the next Morning; but without doubt his real design was to intercept our Men of War and their Convoys.

Besides this Intelligence, an Express was sent to the Bishop of *Algarve*, that Count *d'Estree* was join'd Monsieur *Tourville*, and that the whole Body of the Fleet seem'd to stand off to Sea, in order to double Cape *St. Vincent*, and then proceed Northward: And there was Intelligence at *Cadiz*, that the *French* Fleet had been discover'd in *Lagos* Bay the 6th of *June*, in all about 120 Sail, of which 70 great Ships, besides 16 Fireships, and 6 Bomb-Vessels, and that 20 Sail of them were Cruizing Westward.

The Admirals ordered to distribute Provisions equally to the Ships

These Advices reaching the *English* Court, the Lords of the Admiralty did the 23d of *June* send Orders to the Admirals, to distribute the expected Provisions equally, so soon as it should arrive, and to cause each Captain to take on board what Water he could, since 'twas probable the Service might require

require the Fleet's continuing at Sea a considerable time ; and exprefs Directions were given to the Commissioners for Victualling, to provide as fast as poffibly they could, and haften to the Fleet, what Provisions was then Shipt off ; for at that time what was on board would fuffice no longer than is hereafter mentioned, according to the Computation made thereof by the Agent to the Commissioners of the Victualling ;

The Bread would end by Aug. 16.

Beer ————— July 21.

Beef ————— Sept. 13.

Pork ————— Aug. 16.

Peafe ————— Sept. 13.

Oatmeal ————— Aug. 16.

Butter ————— Sept. 13.

Cheefe ————— Sept. 13.

The 1st of July, 1693, the Flag-Officers submitted it to Her Majesty, whether it might be advifeable for the Fleet to proceed to *Lifbon*, for that if the *French* were join'd and fail'd Northward, the Coast of *England* would be expofed to Infults. That which had before induced them to propofe going thither, was for the Security of Sir *George Rooke*, and the Merchant Ships, and proceeding with him further, or accompany

*Their
Reasons
for not
going
with the
Fleet to
the Af-
fiftance of
Sir Geo:
Rooke.*

panying him home, as it should be thought most proper : But since Orders were sent to him to return, they thought it would be very uncertain where to meet him ; and they were of Opinion, That Her Majesty's Orders to him were so full, that there was no occasion for their giving any others in addition thereunto, since thereby he was directed, That if he was obliged to go into the River of *Lisbon*, and received certain Intelligence, during his stay there, that the *Thoulon* Squadron had join'd the rest of their Fleet, and were together gone Northward from off the Coast of *Portugal*, he should leave a proper Number of Ships, both *English* and *Dutch*, to proceed up the *Streights* with the *Turky* Fleet, and himself return with the rest and join the Body of our Fleet in these Seas, and not meeting them in his passage, to make the Port of *Plimouth*, and there expect further Order. But these Orders being not sent away before the 3d of *June*, they could not possibly arrive time enough ; for he being the 17th of that Month about 60 Leagues short of Cape *St. Vincent*, he ordered the *Lark*, a nimble Sixth Rate, to stretch a-head of his Scouts in *Lagos* Bay, to get what Intelligence could be had there of the
Enemy ;

Enemy; but this Ship hawling the Shore on board, in the Night, more than the rest of the Fleet did, lay becalmed.

The next Day the Scouts discover'd two of the Enemy's Ships, and chasing them till somewhat after Noon, the *Chatham* came up with one of them, a Ship of 70 Guns, and engaged her a small time; but seeing 8 or 10 Sail under the Cape, left her, and repaired to the Admiral with an Account thereof. Hereupon, a Council of War being called of the other two Flag-Officers, namely, Rear-Admiral *Hopson* and Vice-Admiral *Vandergoes*, the Admiral proposed keeping the Wind, or laying by all Night, that so a Discovery of the Enemy's Strength might be made the next Morning: But in this he was over-ruled; and it was urg'd, that the Wind being fresh Northerly, it gave a fair Opportunity of pushing for *Cadix*. The Admiral being apprehensive that such an Attempt might prove of ill Consequence, by drawing the Fleet into a greater Force of the Enemy than he could be able to disengage himself from, thought it requisite, before the Result of the Council of War was Signed, to call to him five or six of the Captains that happened to be on board; whose

Opinion

The French Fleet first discover'd in Lagos Bay by Sir Geo. Rooke.

Opinion being asked, they did all concur in what had been before resolved: Wherefore he ran along Shore all Night with a prest Sail, and forced several of the Enemy's Ships to cut from their Anchors in *Lagos Bay*.

Some of
the French
Ships ha-
stily re-
tire to
draw our
Squadron
into their
Body.

The next Morning by break of Day, being off of *Villa-Nova*, it fell calm, and about 10 Sail of the Enemy's Ships of War, and some other small Ships with them, were seen in the *Offing*. Those Ships stood away with their Boats a-head, setting fire to some, and destroying and deserting other of their small Vessels; but some of them fell into our hands; and in one there was a Train laid which blew up 20 of our Men. One of their Fireships was also taken, by falling into the Fleet in the Night, and the Men on board her inform'd the Admiral, That the Squadron consisted but of 15 Ships of the Line of Battel, but that there was three Flags, Monsieur *Tourville*, Monsieur *Villet*, and Monsieur *Lemon*; and that they had with them 40 odd sail of Storeships and Merchant Men bound to *Thoulon*, or to meet Monsieur *d'Estree*. They said also the Squadron had been becalmed off of the Cape, and that having watered in the Bay, were bound directly into the *Streights*, without any
Intention

Intention of seeing our Fleet. This, with the hasty Retreat of their Men of War in the Morning, and the deserting and burning their small Vessels, gain'd a perfect Belief in the Admiral, and the rest of the Flag-Officers and Captains ; but afterwards it was judg'd (and with Reason too) that the precipitated Retreat of the little part of the Fleet (unless they were at first surprized, and judg'd our whole Strength together, from the Number of Merchant-Ships) was purposely done to amuse us, and thereby to draw our Squadron insensibly into the Body thereof.

About Noon the Sea Breeze sprang up at W. N. W, and North-west, and then the Admiral bore away along Shore upon the Enemy, discovering their Strength the more the nearer he came to them, and at last counted about 80 Sail ; but the number they ply'd up to him with was not above 16, with three Flags, the Admiral, Vice-Admiral of the Blue, and Rear-Admiral of the White. The Vice-Admiral of the White stood off to Sea, that so he might weather our Squadron, and fall in with the Merchant Ships, whilst the Body of their Fleet lay promiscuously to Leeward of one another, as far as they could be seen, especially their biggest Ships.

At

The Enemy's whole Strength discovered, and 16 bear up towards our Squadron.

*The Dutch
Vice-Ad-
miral a-
gainst
Fighting
them.*

At Three in the Afternoon the Admiral being within four Miles of the Enemy, Vice-Admiral *Vandergoes* brought to, and sent him word, That he was then sensible of the Deceit, for that their whole Fleet might be discovered. He was of Opinion to avoid Fighting, if possible, being fearful that not only many of the Merchant Ships would be lost, but that an Engagement there would certainly occasion the Ruine of the whole. The Admiral himself judg'd he was advanced too near to think of a Retreat, and therefore, before the receipt of this Message, had resolved to push for it; but afterwards reflecting on the Inconveniencies he might expose himself to, by Engaging, and thereby hazarding the loss of the Squadron, contrary to the Opinion and Advice of the *Dutch* Flag-Officer, he brought to, and stood off with an easie Sail, that so the *Dutch*, and the heavy Sailers, might have time to work up to Windward, and he sent the *Sheerness* with Orders to the small Ships that were near the Land, and could not (as he judg'd) keep up with the Fleet to endeavour to get along Shore in the Night, and save themselves in *Faroh*, *St. Lucar*, or *Cadiz*.

*Sir Geo.
Rooke
theretupon
stands off.*

The

The Admiral and Vice-Admiral of the Blue, with 8 or 10 Sail of the Enemy's Ships, fetched very fast upon our Squadron, which obliged us to make Sail; but nevertheless they came up with the Leewardmost about 6 a Clock, which were two or three *Dutch* Men of War, and some of their Merchant Ships, who (soon after they were engaged) tack'd in for the Shoar, and the Enemy after them, and thereby gave a fair opportunity to our Ships that were to Windward, and A-head, to make Sail off. The Admiral stood off all Night with a prest Sail, having a fresh Gale at N.N.W, and on *Sunday* Morning 54 of the Merchant Ships, and several Men of War, were about him, but of the latter no more than two of those belonging to the *Dutch*, and one *Hamburgher*, and five Sail of the Enemy's Ships, were to Leeward, and two to Windward, which last tack'd from him, but yet dogg'd him all Day.

The opportunity our Ships had to escape, by the Enemy's following some Dutch Ships in to the Shoar.

The next day the Admiral called the Officers of the Men of War and Merchant Ships on board, to inform himself what Account they could give of the rest of the Fleet, and to Advise what was best to be done for the Security of the Remainder. Some of them said, they saw 40 or 50 Ships bear away

way to the Southward, about 10 a Clock on *Saturday* night, and that among them were the *Monk*, and a *Dutch* Man of War of 50 Guns ; and there was great hopes that the *Shandoise*, *Asia*, and several other large Ships bound to *Turky*, were safe, because the Admiral's own Ship was the Leewardmost of the Fleet on *Sunday* Morning, and that now there could be discern'd none to Leeward but the five *French* Ships, which stood away towards *Cadiz* when they left him. Not more than one of the Masters of the Merchant Ships was for looking towards the *Streights* Mouth ; the rest were positively against it: Some enclin'd for *Lisbon*, others for the *Groyne*, but most for *Ireland* ; so that he determined to steer away either for *Cork* or *Kinsale*, the two principal Ports in that Kingdom.

With great Cunning the Enemy drew our Fleet into this Misfortune ; but had they pursued the Advantage with as much Conduct and Resolution, not a Ship had escaped ; for the Admiral, and Vice-Admiral of the Blue, were within Shot of our Admiral, when they tack'd and stood in to the Shoar after the *Dutch* ; and that tacking (as I have said before) saved the rest of the Fleet.

Ha-

Having given this Account, it may not be altogether improper to take up a little of your Time, and my own, in relating how the Fleet, both Ships of War, and those of the Merchants, was by this unlucky Accident separated, *Viz.*

In what manner the Squadron and Merchant Ships were separated.

English Ships of War.

Royal Oak.
Breda.
Monmouth.
Lion.
Woolwich.
Newcastle.
Chatham.
Tyger Prize.
Lumley Castle.
Princess Anne.
Loyal Merchant.
Lark.
Salamander.
Dispatch Brigantine
Speedwell }
Vulture } Fireships.
Muscovia Merchant;
Storeship.
Susana, Bomb Store-
ship.

All these were with the Fleet when the French left us.

Monk. } Bore up with the
Shandois, Asia, &c.
O Sheer-

<i>Sheerness.</i> —————	}	Tack'd and stood in for the Shoar with the Mer- chant Ships.
<i>Smirna Factor.</i> ————		

Dutch Ships of War.

<i>Captain General.</i> ————	}	These were also in the Fleet.
<i>Gelderland.</i> —————		

<i>Oosterstellingwerf.</i> —	}	Gone Convoy to St. Ubes and Port O Port, and so for- ward for Cadiz.
<i>D'Beschermeer.</i> ————		

<i>Nimwegen.</i> —————	}	Bore up with the <i>Shandois, Asia, &c.</i>

<i>Zeelandt.</i> —————	}	Tack'd and stood in for the Shoar, soon after the Enemy had fetch'd and engag'd them.
<i>De Hadt Medezel.</i> ————		
<i>Schiedam.</i> —————		

Merchant Ships in the Fleet.

<i>George.</i> —————	}	Bound to <i>Smirna.</i>
<i>Concord.</i> —————		
<i>Crown.</i> —————		
<i>Aleppo Factor.</i> ————	}	Bound to <i>Scande- roon.</i>
<i>Reward.</i> —————		
<i>Phoenix.</i> —————		Bound to <i>Messina.</i>
<i>Merchants Goodwill.</i> ————		Bound to <i>Galleppo.</i>

Lambeth. —————	}	Bound to <i>Alicant</i> .
Poplar Frigat.		
Terra Nova Merch ^t .		
Hunter. —————	}	Bound to <i>Cadiz</i> .
Andalusia.		
Relief.		
Sarah.		
George. —————	}	Bound to <i>St. Lucar</i> .
Fidelity. —————		

English Merchant Ships wanting.

Shandois. —————	}	Bound to <i>Smirna</i> .
Asta.		
Italian Merchant.		
Mary. —————		
Joseph. —————	}	Bound to <i>Leghorne</i> , <i>Smirna</i> , and <i>Scanderoon</i> .
Loyalty. —————		
Jacob. —————	}	Bound to <i>Venice</i> .
Prosperous Africa.		
Ruby.		
Golden Frigat. ———		
Great Tuniseen. ———	}	Bound to <i>Tunis</i> .
Three Brothers. ———		
Susanna. —————	}	Bound to <i>Alicant</i> .
Oxenden. —————		
Merchants Good-	}	Bound to <i>Barcelona</i> .
Will. —————		
Friendship. ———	}	Bound to <i>Malaga</i> .

Success.

Malaga Factor.

Benjamin.

Frog Doggar.

Sarah.

John and Samuel.—

John and Thomas.— Bound to St. Lucar.

Bound to Cadiz.

All the Dutch Turkey Ships were missing.

All the *Hamburgher* Convoys were missing, except one Man of War and one Merchant Man; the other Man of War went to *St. Ubes*, and so forward for *Cadiz*.

Sir Geo.
Rooke
proceeds
to Made-
ra to Wa-
ter.

After the Admiral had dispatched the *Lark*, with an Account of this Disaster, to *England*, he bore away with the Fleet to the Island of *Madera's* for Water, where he had hopes of meeting some of the scattered Ships, but found only the *Monk*, commanded by Captain *Fairborne*: Wherefore putting the Ships into the best Condition he could, he sailed from the *Madera's* the 27th of *June*, 1693, and arrived at *Cork* in *Ireland* the 3d of *August*, where he received Orders from the joint Admirals, to send the *Royal Oak*, *Breda*, *Monmouth*, *Lion*, *Woolwich*, and *Lumley Castle*, to the main Fleet: But in regard
all

He ar-
rives at
Cork in
Ireland.

all the Ships with him were in great Want of several Species of Provisions, and that no Service could be expected from those that were to remain at *Kinsale*, he sent them thither under Command of Captain *Fairborne*, and came himself with the before-mentioned Detachment to the Fleet.

After our Squadron had thus fortunately escaped, the Enemy proceeded up the *Streights*, and came to an Anchor before the Town of *Malaga* the 20th of *July* in the Morning, to the Governor of which Place Monsieur *Tourville* sent word, That he had no Design against the Place, or Inhabitants, but that his Business was to burn all the *English* and *Dutch* Ships in the Port; adding, That if the City defended them, (which indeed it was in no good Condition of doing) he was resolved to Bombard it. The Governor returned Answer, 'That he would endeavour to 'Protect the Ships according to the 'King his Master's Orders; so that the next day the *French* placed their Broad-
sides towards the Ships in the Mold, being four *Dutch* and one *English*, and attempted to burn the *Union* Frigate; but they were twice repulsed. Nevertheless they continued to fire very hotly, and all having been done that was possible

The French Fleet proceeds up the Streights.

The French attack our Merchant Ships at Malaga whose Masters sunk them.

sible to defend the Ships, their Masters did at last sink them.

The Dispute between the City and the *French* lasted about six Hours; but they did no great damage one to the other; nor was there above 8 or 10 Men killed and wounded on Shore.

They then
repair to
Cadiz
Bay and
receive
Refresh-
ments
from the
Governor.

After this the Enemy returned, and Anchored in the Bay of *Cadiz*, where they were so far from doing Mischief, that at the Desire of the *French* Admiral (for there was no need of Compulsion) the Governor of the Place gave him a handsome Present of Refreshments. The same Afternoon they sent away all their Prizes to *Thoulon*, (being about 18) under the Convoy of two Men of War, and detached about 14 Ships, and two Bomb-Vessels, toward *Gibraltar*, in which Bay they arrived the 8th in the Morning, within Gun-shot of the Fortifications, which, together with the Mold and Ships, fired on them all Day; but they made no return.

They de-
tach a
Squadron
to Gi-
braltar.

The 11th in the Morning, Captain *Littleton* of the *Smirna Factor*, sent from her, and several of the Merchant Ships, about 90 Seamen, to enable the Masters of the four *Turky* Ships to defend them, on whom the *French* fired, and sent in one of their Frigats to attack them; but the warm Reception she received, soon obliged

obliged them to rescue her with their Boats; but when the *French* began to fling Bombs into the Mold, those Masters (as the others did at *Malaga*) bor'd holes in their Ships, and sunk them, and then the *French* retired to *Lagos Bay*.

Our Merchant Ships sunk by their Masters, and then the Enemy repair to *Lagos Bay*.

'Tis needless to throw away more time in attending the Motion of the *French Fleet*, or in relating the mighty Feats they did, in bestowing some Bombs on other Ports in the *Streights*, in their passage to *Thoulon*, and therefore I shall again return to the Body of our Fleet at Home, which could by no means have arrived time enough to the Assistance of *Sir George Rooke*, had they had sufficient Provisions, and all other things necessary. But since there was an absolute Necessity for their going to Sea, a Council of the Flag-Officers was called the 9th of *July*; and 'twas resolv'd to proceed 40 Leagues S. W. from *Ushant*, and then to consider whether 'twould be best to remain there, or to remove to some other Station, for the better intercepting the Enemy, and keeping the Fleet together. To put this in execution, they attempted to sail the 11th, but were forced back by extream bad weather, which did considerable damage to the Fleet, and many of the Ships lost their Topmasts and Anchors.

A Council of War called to consider how to dispose of our Fleet

The Misfortune of the *Turky* Squadron had not long reach'd the Court, e're there were several Questions sent to the Admirals by the Lords of the Admiralty, with respect to the Time and Place of their parting from the said Squadron, and their not gaining Intelligence from *Brest*, &c. but they adhering to the several Councils of War that were called upon this Subject, the whole Matter ended with some Examinations before the House of Commons.

The *Victory*, *Dutchess*, *Suffolk*, *Ossory*, and *Elizabeth*, which wanted the greatest Repairs, were, on the 22d of *August*, ordered from the Fleet to *Chatham*; but it was directed, that if any other damaged Ships could be put into a Condition for the Sea, at *Torbay*, they should be immediately gone in hand with; and at this time all the *Dutch* Ships were in a tollerable good Condition, except that wherein Vice-Admiral *Callemberg* bore his Flag, and her Main-mast and Bowsprit were unserviceable. But the Winter Season being somewhat advanced, the Admirals received Orders the 25th to come with the Fleet to *St. Hellens*; and being arrived there, the four Regiments were put on Shore at *Portsmouth*, and the three Deckt Ships ordered to *Blackstake*, except four of them,

The Admirals come with the Fleet to St. Hellens, and the great Ships sent to Christchurch.

them, the *St. Andrew*, *St. Michael*, *Nep-
tune* and *Vanguard*, which were ap-
pointed to be fitted at *Portsmouth*.

The 19th of *September*, 1693, 15 *Dutch*
Ships of the Line of Battel, and two
Frigats of 36 Guns, were ordered by
His Majesty to *Holland*; so that the
Body being now separated, it was de-
termined that one Second, 17 Thirds,
7 Fourths, one Fifth, 7 Fireships, and
two Hospital Ships, should be the Win-
ter Guard.

I come now to give an Account of
the Proceedings of Sir *Francis Wheler*,
who was appointed Admiral and Com-
mander in Chief of the Squadron de-
signed for the *Mediterranean*, and of
what pass'd in those Parts, after his
unfortunate Loss, under the Conduct
of Rear-Admiral *Nevil*; till such time
as he was join'd at *Cadiz* by the Earl of
Orford, with the *English* and *Dutch* Fleet.

*Sir Fr.
Wheler
appointed
to Com-
mand a
Squadron
to the
Mediterranean.*

He was ordered by the Lords of the
Admiralty, the 20th of *November*, 1693,
to get in readiness, and proceed to *Ca-
diz*, with 16 Third Rates, 7 Fourths,
one Fifth, one Sixth, six Fireships, two
Bomb-Vessels, an Hospital Ship, and
a Storeship, in company with several
Dutch Ships of War appointed to join
him; and to take under his Convoy all
Merchant Ships bound to *Turky*, or any
Port in *Spain* or *Italy*.

*Sir Fr.
Wheler's
Instruc-
tions.*

If he arrived at *Cadiz* before the *Spanish* Plate Fleet, he was to Cruize in such Station as a Council of War should advise, not exceeding 30 Days, to secure them in their Passage : And when the said Fleet arrived, or if they did not within the aforesaid time, he was to proceed into the *Mediterranean* with 7 Third Rates, as many Fourths, one Fifth, one Sixth, four Fireships, two Bomb-Vessels, and the Hospital-Ship and Storeship, together with the *Dutch*. The rest of the Squadron he was to leave at *Cadiz*, with Orders to the Commander in chief to remain 21 Days there, and then to return to *England*, with all the Trade that should be ready to accompany him.

In case the *Spanish* Men of War came to *Cadiz* before he sailed thence, he was to concert with their Admiral where to join him, at his return from Convoying the *Turky* Ships.

In the next place he was particularly Instructed what Convoys to send to *Turky*, and other Ports up the *Streights*, and himself, with the Squadron, was to accompany them as high as the Chanel of *Malta* ; but he was caution'd (as had been usual) not to block up any of the Grand Signior's Ports, and if he took any Ships, wherein were
the

the Persons or Effects of that Prince, or his Subjects, he was ordered to set both the one and the other on Shore at the first convenient Port.

When he had thus sent forward the several Convoys, he was, with the rest of the *English* and *Dutch* Men of War, to return and join the few *Spanish* Ships (and those rotten ones too) which that Nation call their *Armada*, and, with their Invincible Assistance, to annoy the Enemy, and protect the Trade; and when he should judge the *Turky* Convoys were on their return, he was to repair to the appointed Rendezvous for joining them, and Convey them to *England*, and to bring with him the several Trades from the Ports in the *Streights*, and *Cadiz*.

He was also further directed, when in the *Mediterranean*, to send two or three Ships before *Algier*, *Tunis*, and *Tripoly*, to confirm the Peace with those Governments, and to deliver His Majesty's Presents to them.

From the 20th of *November*, 1693, to the 27th of the following Month, he lay with the Squadron at *St. Hellens*, before which time all things necessary for his Voyage could not be, or at least were not, got in a readiness, and then he sailed, leaving behind him two or three

three of the smaller Ships at *Portsmouth* and *Plimouth*, to Convoy the Storeships and Victuallers to him.

*He sails,
and sends
in his
Convoys
to Portu-
gal.*

The 29th in the Evening he took his departure from the Land, being joined by most of the Ships he had left behind, as also the Victuallers from *Portsmouth* and *Plimouth*; and the 4th of the next Month, near the length of the North Cape, he appointed a Convoy to the Ships bound to *Oporto*, and Northward of the *Burlings*; and two days after he sent in, with the *Lisbon* and *St. Tubes* Ships, three Third Rates, two Fourth Rates, and a Fireship, being informed that there were Five of the Enemy's Ships of War off of the Rock of *Lisbon*, or Cape *St. Vincent*.

The 13th at Night (standing E. by S, the Wind at N. by E.) about 10 Leagues from Cape *St. Vincent*, he saw Four Sail of big Ships, and immediately made the Signal for some of his Squadron to speak with them; but they bearing away, and it being dirty Weather, he called his Ships off, to avoid losing Company; and the next Morning he saw Six Sail a-stern, about 7 Leagues N. of Cape *St. Vincent*; whereupon he lay by with little Wind, that if they were some of his own Number, they might come up, or if Enemies, give an opportunity to his Ships to get together. The

The Wind veered contrary the 15th at Night, and he lay by to avoid Tacking; but it coming about in the Morning to the N.N.W, he made sail, and presently saw Four *French* Men of War, one of them a great Ship, about Three Leagues to Windward of the Fleet, near *Lagos*, and Two more at a distance under the Shoar. This induced him to command all the Merchant Ships to bear down to Leeward of him, for their better Security, and he ordered Vice-Admiral *Hopson*, and Five Sail more, to chase to Windward; but the Enemy's Ships being clean, and at so great a distance, no good could be done on them. However a Council of War determined, That Rear-Admiral *Nevil*, with the *Warspight*, *York*, *Chatham*, and two *Dutch* Men of War of 70 Guns each, and two Fireships, should stand away for Cape *St. Vincent*, and endeavour to speak with them, and cruize there 6 days, to join the *Lisbon*, *St. Tubes*, and *Oporto* Convoy, and bring them to *Cadiz*, where Sir *Francis Wheler* himself arrived the 19th of *January*, having lost Company in his Passage but with one of the 165 Ships that he carried with him from *England*, besides the *Canary* Convoy, which separated at a convenient Station.

Rear-Admiral *Nevil* sent in quest of some French Ships off Cape St. Vincent. Sir *Francis* arrives at *Cadiz*.

*An Account of
the Spanish Ar-
mada.*

In *Cadiz* Bay he found the *Spanish Armada*, being about 16 Sail, but all unrigg'd. Their Admiral (to the best of his knowledge) told him that they would be ready about the latter end of *March*, tho', according to the Dispatch they usually make in those Matters, they might reasonably have had some Months more allowed them. Of the *Dutch*, Seven accompanied him from *England*, Two more he met at *Cadiz*, and four others were suddenly expected as Convoy to their Trade, but instead of them Four others were to return home; so that considering the great Wealth of the Merchants, the Convoys he was to detach, the smallness of the Squadron, and the uncertainty of timely Assistance from the *Spaniards*, he was not a little doubtful of the Success of his Expedition.

*The Flota
arrived
safe in
Cadiz
Bay.*

He found the Flota safely arrived in *Cadiz* Bay, so that his Care for them was at an end; and the 25th of *January* Rear-Admiral *Nevil* came into the Bay, with the Ships ordered to cruize off of *Cape St. Vincent*, having there luckily joined the Convoys, in sight of the *French* Squadron.

After he had appointed a Convoy for the homeward bound Trade, which was two Third Rates, two Fourths, and a Fire-

Fireship, with Four Dutch Men of War, Two whereof were Ships of 70 Guns, and given Vice-Admiral *Hopson* the necessary Instructions for that Service, he put to Sea, having not had a Westerly Wind after he was ready to sail before the 10th of February, 1693; but when he had got the Entrance of the *Streights* open, he was forced to bear up for the Bay of *Bulls*, where he Anchored the next day.

Vice-Admiral Hopson ordered home with the Trade, and Sir Francis Wheeler sails, but is forced back. He sails again.

The 17th in the Afternoon he sailed again, and being got off of the Bay of *Gibraltar*, he lay by with an easy Gale at West: But the next Morning, about Two a Clock, he made sail, with little Wind Northerly. At 7 the Wind came up at S. E, and to the E. N. E, with Thunder, Lightning, and Rain, so that the Fleet laid their Heads Southward, but at One in the Afternoon they wore, and lay Northward under a main Course, it blowing a hard Gale at E. S. E, and the Hill of *Gibraltar* was W. S. W, about 6 Leagues off. At 4 a Clock the Land Westward of *Fungeroll* was seen N. E. by E, and between 4 and 5 the Squadron went about, and Rear-Admiral *Nevil* getting his Tacks on board, stood Southward, and laid up S. E. under his Courses. At 6 the Admiral himself hawled up his Foresail, and

A violent Storm.

and try'd with his Mainfail, with his Head Southward; but at 12 at night Vice-Admiral *Callemberg* made the Signal for coming to sail, and Rear-Admiral *Nevil* did the like, and got his Fore-tack aboard. About one it blew a fresh of Wind, and his Forefail being lost, he was forced to lie under a Mainfail and Mizen all night. The next day, about 5 in the morning, the Rear-Admiral's Mainfail gave way, and an hour after seeing the Southward part of the Hill at *Gibraltar* W.S.W. of him, about 3 Leagues off, and 14 Sail of the Fleet to Windward, some under their Main-fails only, others a Mizen, and some without Masts, he immediately brought a new Forefail to the Yard, and hoisted his Ensign, to give the other Ships of the Fleet that were in sight of him notice of the Land; and himself seeing the Gutt, stood away for it, as did Vice-Admiral *Callemberg* (who first saw his Signal) and the other Ships: But they having the Bay of *Gibraltar* open, and, in all probability, mistaking it for the *Streights* Mouth, put in there, not being able to see the Land Westward, by reason it was thick Weather with much Rain, which occasion'd their running into that unhappy Misfortune; for it being a Lee Shoar, foul Ground, and

*The Ships
receive
Damage
in their
Sails, &c.*

*Several
Ships mi-
stake the
Bay of
Gibral-
tar for
the
Streights
Mouth,
and ran
on Shoar.*

and their Sails flying into the Air like Kites, they were forced to let go their Anchors, of which many were lost, most of their Cables spoil'd, and some of the Ships were forced on Shoar.

Rear-Admiral Nevill and others b. ar away thro' the Gut.

The Rear-Admiral knowing the Danger, but not being able timely, or effectually, to forewarn them of it, stood away directly through the *Streights*, and at Night got into *St. Jeremy's Bay* on the Coast of *Barbary*, where he ply'd to and fro (it being then a Weather Shoar, and smooth Water) till the 23d, at which time a small Gale coming up Westerly, he made the best of his way for *Gibraltar*; and had there the melancholy News of the Loss of the Admiral, Sir *Francis Wheeler*, whose Ship, the *Suffex*, foundred in the Storm, and of 550 Men only two *Turks* were saved, the Admiral's Body being taken up among the Rocks on the Shoar very much mangled.

The *Suffex* foundred, and Sir *Francis Wheeler* drown'd.

Besides this Loss, there were many others very considerable, both as to Ships and Men, a particular Account whereof (as near as it can be collected) is hereafter mention'd, *viz.*

		Men.
The <i>Cambridge</i> , a Ship of 70 Guns, } went on Shoar about 4 in the } Morning, and lost ————— }	100	Other Losses.
P		The

Men.

The <i>Lumley Castle</i> had the like Mis- fortune near 10 at Night, and lost _____	} 130
The <i>Serpent</i> Bomb-Vessel foun- dred, and lost _____	} 15
The <i>William</i> Ketch ran on Shoar, and lost _____	} 15
The <i>Mary</i> Ketch founder'd, and lost _____	} 16
The <i>Great George</i> , a <i>Turkey</i> Ship, ran on Shoar, and lost _____	} 90
The <i>Aleppo</i> Factor ran on Shoar, and lost _____	} 3
The <i>Golden</i> Frigat of <i>Venice</i> ran on Shoar, and lost _____	} 23
The <i>Berkshire</i> , a <i>Turkey</i> Ship, ran on Shoar, and lost _____	} 15
The <i>Indian</i> Merchant, another <i>Turkey</i> Ship, ran on Shoar, and lost _____	} 1
The <i>William</i> , bound for <i>Legborne</i> , ran on Shoar in the Eve- ning, and lost _____	} 1

409
Lost in the *Suffex* — 448

In all — 857

The

The *Hollandia*, a Dutch Ship of 70 Guns, ran on Shoar in Gibraltar Bay, but got off again with the loss of all her Masts.

Several other Ships, both *English* and *Dutch*, ran on Shoar; and hardly one of the whole Squadron escaped, without considerable Damage in their Masts, and otherwise.

But the Squadron (or the greatest part thereof) being got together at Gibraltar, it was thought Adviseable at a Council of War, to repair from thence to Cadiz, with all the Ships that were in a Condition; for there it was judg'd they might be more safe from the *French*: But contrary Winds kept them at Gibraltar till the beginning of May.

I lately took notice of the Orders given by Sir *Francis Wheler* to Vice-Admiral *Hopson*, to return from Cadiz to England with the Trade, after having stay'd a certain time there; but before he could leave that Place, the Governor received an Order from his Catholick Majesty, directing him to communicate to the Captains of the *English* and *Dutch* Ships, an Account of the Motion of the Enemy, to prevent any Surprize should they leave that Port: Notwithstanding which, having a fair Opportunity, he sailed with his Convoys,

The Squadron Re-unites at Gibraltar.

Vice-Admiral Hopson arrives in England with his Convoys

and arrived off of the *Lizard* the 5th of April, 1694.

The Brest Squadron get into the Streights.

Rear-Admiral *Nevill* had also Advice at *Cadiz*, That on the 4th of May, 1694, there passed by *Gibraltar* Eastward, a Fleet of 53 Sail, and that 35 of them appeared to be large Ships, but shewed no Colours. These were the Ships order'd from *Brest* to join the *Thoulon* Squadron, and which had been some time before within the *Streights*, and burnt 4 Spanish Men of War, in their Passage to *Barcelona* with Soldiers.

The Duke of Ossuna coming to Cadiz to fit out the Galleons, dies.

The Spaniards about this time had a Defeat in *Catalonia*; and in the beginning of June, the Duke of *Ossuna* was ordered from Court, with Power to fit out the Galleons at *Cadiz*, that so they might join our Forces; but he died on the Road, and, as some thought, not of any natural Distemper.

Thus stood Affairs in that part of *Europe*; but soon after, Admiral *Russell*, with the most considerable Parts of the Fleets, both *English* and *Dutch*, arrived at *Cadiz*, after he had left the Lord *Berkeley*, Admiral of the Blue, with the remainder for the Expedition against *Brest*; an Account of whose Proceedings, from the time he sailed from *St. Hellen's*, as also of the ill Success our Forces had in the Attempt they made

made on that considerable Port of the Enemy's, I shall now proceed to give you.

The whole Fleet being at *St. Hellen's*, and the Forces design'd on Service against *Brest* on their March towards *Portsmouth*, where they were to embark, the Admiral gave Orders to *Sir Cloudesly Shovell*, on the 3d of *May*, 1694, to remain there with 3 First Rates, 9 Second, 12 Thirds, 7 Fourths, 4 Fifths, and 3 Sixth Rates, till their Companies were paid, and, during that time, to consider how many of the Land Forces (supposed to be about 6000) each Ship could conveniently take on board, and what Numbers might embark on board the Tenders left there for that purpose, wherein he was ordered to Advise with Lieutenant General *Talmarsh*.

Mr. Russell leaves Sir Cloudesly Shovell to take in the Forces at Portsmouth design'd against Brest.

With the rest of the Fleet the Admiral sailed, and reached the appointed Station 15 Leagues S. S. W. from the *Lizard* the 9th of *May*, where he was informed by the Master of a *Swedish* Ship, who came from *Brest* but 3 Days before, that the Ships which had for some time lain in readiness to sail from that Port, departed thence the 25th of *April*, our *Stile*, with a strong Easterly Wind, and that 40 or 50 Sail of Mer-

He sails into the Soundings with the rest of the Fleet.

Has Advice when the French sailed from Brest.

Some
French
Merchant
Ships de-
stroy'd in
Bertram
Bay.

chant Ships lay in *Bertram Bay*, bound Eastward under Protection of a Man of War or two. Upon this he ordered the *Monmouth* and *Resolution*, with a Fireship, to go between the Trade-way and the Main, and endeavour to take or destroy them. Captain *Pickard*, who commanded them, brought with him into the Fleet two of the Vessels, a large Flyboat and a Pink, loaden with Salt, having, as he reported, forced on Shoar about 35 Sail.

The Ad-
miral ar-
rives at
St. Hel-
len's.

When the Fleet had been some Days on the Station, it was judg'd necessary to repair to *Torbay*, that so the other part thereof, with the Soldiers, might be the sooner joined: In order whereunto the Admiral writ to Sir *Cloudesty Shovel*, letting him know, That if the Wind continued Westerly, he had thoughts of coming to him at *Spithead*, but if Easterly, to remain in *Torbay* for him: And according to this Resolution he sail'd, and arriv'd at *St. Hellen's* the 23d, where he apply'd himself with greatest Diligence in the distribution of the Land-Forces, and compleating the Provisions, that so an Opportunity might be taken of the first fair Wind; and Craizers were order'd on proper Stations to gain Intelligence.

All

All Things being dispatched, he sail'd, Sails a-
gain from
thence. and, by stopping of Tides, got off the *Berry* the 2d of *June*; being confirmed in his former Opinion, by the Advices he received, that the *French* Ships were gone from *Brest* to *Thoulon*.

It was Agreed, That when the Fleet was in a proper Station, the Squadron with the Land-Forces should separate, upon making the appointed Signal, and steer away for *Brest*, and that then the Admiral himself should take his Course towards the *Mediterranean* with the Remainder: And, that no Time might be lost, he prepared Orders, before he sailed from *St. Hellen's*, by which the Lord *Berkely* was directed how to govern himself on this Expedition, the Contents whereof was as follows:

1. He was thereby informed what Lord
Be ke-
ley's In-
structions
for at-
tempting
Brest. Ships, both *English* and *Dutch*, were to be under his Command, and directed to proceed with them to *Brest*, and, when there, to land the Officers and Soldiers in such a manner, and at such Place or Places, as should be Agreed on by a Council of War of the General Officers both at Sea and Land, who were to consider, before they arrived at *Brest*, how the Forces might be best assisted by the Ships,

either in Landing or otherwise, as also when it might be most proper for the Men of War to go into *Brest* Water, to assist in carrying on the Design against the Town, and the Ships there.

2. When the Forces and Ships had done what they were able against *Brest*, it was then to be considered what Service might be performed on any other of the *French* King's Ports, and how the same might be most effectually put in Execution.

3. And when a Council of War should judge that no farther Service could be done, either by Sea or Land, and think it Adviseable to have the Forces taken on Board again, he was to cause the same to be done, and then to repair to, and remain at *Tor-bay*, or *Spithead*, till he received Orders from the King, or Lords of the *Admiralty*.

4. His Lordship was likewise directed to use his best Endeavours to protect the Forces, at all times when it should be thought proper to Land them, and Embark them again: And if the General Officers should at any time judge it necessary, to have part of the Seamen put on Shoar, to strengthen the Land-Forces, and that
the

the Ships might conveniently spare them, he was to detach such a Number as the said General Officers should desire, or at least so many as he could without Hazard to the Ships.

Having now given you the Contents of the Instructions to the Lord *Berkeley*, it will appear by the following Account what Naval Strength was sent with him on this Service, *viz.*

<i>Rates.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>The Naval Strength with Ld. Berkley.</i>
1 —————	3	
2 —————	4	
3 —————	12	
4 —————	1	
5 —————	2	
Fireships —————	10	
Hospitals —————	3	
Brigantines —————	3	
Besides Bomb-Vessels, Advice-Boats, &c.		

Dutch.

Ships of the Line ———	19
Fireships —————	4

For the more regular carrying on this Design, his Lordship was ordered to cause the Ships and Vessels before-mentioned, and all the Tenders, and Well-Boats,

Boats, (which latter were particularly built for putting Men on Shore) to keep near the Flags whereto they were respectively appointed, and to shift their Pendants accordingly, that so when the Signal should be made for parting, each might follow his proper Flag without confusion ; for at this time there was not many who knew that the Fleet was to be divided on particular Services.

Care being thus taken for the Fleet bound to *Brest*, and the Rendezvous for them in case of Separation appointed to be *Camoret Bay*, the Admiral did next consider, what was necessary to be done, with respect to the Ships he had appointed to proceed with him into the *Mediterranean* ; and knowing what ill Consequences might attend Separation, in case the Ships so separated knew not certainly where to join again, he gave to each Captain the following Rendezvous, *viz.*

The Rendezvous given by the Admiral to the Ships designed for the Bouights

That if they happen'd to lose sight of the Fleet when 50 Leagues S.W. from the *Lizard*, and that the Winds blew so hard Westerly as to oblige the Fleet to bear up, they should repair to *Torbay* : But if they happened to lose company by reason of a Fog, or other Accident, when

when Eastward of the aforesaid Station, they were to make the best of their way 15 Leagues West from Cape *Spartell*, and remain there till join'd by the Fleet, or otherwise ordered; and they were strictly forbid to chase out of their way, on any Pretence whatever, or to discover where they were bound to any Ship or Vessel they might meet with. But by reason there was a Probability of their joining him before he reach'd the Rendezvous near Cape *Spartell*, he let them know, that, as the Winds proved, he did design to come within 25 Leagues West of Cape *Finister*, and within 20 of Cape *St. Vincent*, and that from thence he would proceed directly to the Rendezvous: And the Captains were expressly directed not to break up the Sealed Rendezvous, unless they should happen to be separated with the Wind Easterly, and then they were to inform themselves of the Contents thereof, and repair to the Fleet 15 Leagues S.W. from the *Lizard*.

All things being now adjusted for the Fleet's separating, a Council of War
was

was called the 31st of *May*, 1694, of the Flags and General Officers ; who taking into Consideration the several Particulars relating to the Squadron appointed for *Brest*, came to the following Resolutions, *viz.*

*Result of
a Council
of War a-
bout at-
tacking
Brest.*

1. That the said Squadron should make the best of their way to, and Anchor in *Camoret* Bay, and the Land Forces be immediately set on Shore : And that the Fleet should continue at Anchor, till they received Advice from General *Talmarsh*, of the Condition of the Fort on the Starboard-side going in, and what Forces he found there.
2. That it was not proper to come to any positive Resolution at what time the Fleet should go in to *Brest* Water ; and therefore they left that Matter to be considered of when they arrived in *Camoret* Bay.
3. That a Red Ensign at the Fore-top-mast-head on board the Admiral of the Blue, and firing a Gun, should be the Signal for the Soldiers embarking on board the small Craft, and Boats ; and the taking down that Signal, with two Guns, for their going on Shore.

There

There were present at this Council,

Admiral *Russell*,
Lord *Berkeley*,
Sir *Cloudesly Shovell*,
Vice-Admiral *Aylmer*,
Rear-Admiral *Mitchell*,
Marquis of *Carmarthen*,
Captain *Bing*.

Lieutenant-General *Talmarsh*,
Earl of *Macclesfield*,
Lord *Cutts*,
Sir *Martin Beckman*.

Admiral *Almonde*,
Vice-Admiral *Vanderputt*,
Vice-Admiral *Schey*,
Rear-Admiral *Vandergoes*,
Rear-Admiral *Evertsen*,
Captain *Vander Dufend*.

The 6th Day of *June*, 1694, in the *The Fleet*
Afternoon, the two Fleets parted; and *separates.*
since that Commanded by the Lord
Berkeley came first to their appointed
Service, I think it may be most proper
to begin with their Proceedings, and
then to follow the Admiral himself to
the *Streights*.

My Lord *Berkeley* being arrived in
Camoret Bay, a Council of War was
called

*Resolution
taken a-
bout Lan-
ding.*

called on board the *Queen* the 8th of *June*, where was present his Lordship, Lieutenant-General *Talmarsh*, and all the Flags and General Officers, by whom it was resolved, That the Lieutenant-General should go on Shore with the Troops as soon as 'twas possible, and endeavour to make himself Master of the Fort at *Camoret*, and that four or five Frigats should cover him in Landing.

*Some of
the Forces
put on
shore but
repulsed.*

Accordingly, a considerable Number of the Forces were put on Shore; but the *French* being fortified in every Place, and intrenched almost in every Bay, our Men were so warmly received on all sides, that they were soon obliged to return to the Boats, and in no little Disorder.

*Lieute-
nant-Ge-
neral
'Talmarsh'
dies of
his wound*

In this Action we lost about 600 Men, and the Lieutenant-General himself was wounded in the Thigh, of which he soon after died at *Plimouth*. The *Monk*, *Charles Galley*, and *Shoreham*, some of the Ships that were sent in to protect the Landing, and to batter the *French* Forts, were very much shatter'd, and in them, and the others, about 112 Men were killed and wounded; a *Dutch* Frigat was sunk, and her Captain killed; besides many other Damages.

The Bays of *Camoret* and *Bertranz* were in a manner a Citadel; for where there was any Place to put Forces on Shore, there had the *French* Batteries and Retrenchments, and they threw Bombs at our Ships from 5 or 6 several Places.

So soon as the Land Forces were got on board, a General Council of War was held; and since they found it impracticable to attempt any thing further at *Brest*, it was considered what might be done with the Fleet and Army. The Lieutenant-General informed them, that he had not sufficient Authority to attempt any other Place, and therefore proposed that a Squadron of small Frigats, with the Bomb-Vessels, might be sent into that Harbour, to try if they could Bomb the Town. This was thought by no means adviseable, for the Ships could not go in without a Westerly, nor come out without an Easterly Wind; and since it was not known what Strength the *French* had at that Port, they might run the hazard of falling into their Hands: Besides, in battering the Forts, one of them was sunk, and most of the others render'd unfit for Service. In fine, it was agreed, that the Fleet should repair to *Spithead*, the fittest Place to land the Troops at, and to refit the Ships.

A Council of War called to consider what might be further done.

Thus

Thus ended this unlucky Expedition; but I cannot leave it without making this Observation, That the *French* would not in all probability have been in such a Posture to receive our Troops, had not early Advice been given them of our Debates and Resolutions concerning that Affair, by *French* Men who were consulted and advised with therein.

*The Fleet
arrives
at St.
Hellens.*

The Fleet sailing from *Camoret Bay*, arrived at *St. Hellens* the 15th of *June*, 1694, and there Orders were received from the Queen, That a Council of War of the Flags and General Officers should consider how the Ships and Troops might be best employed. They were

*A Council
of War
resolve to
annoy the
Enemy by
bombing,
and lan-
ding Men.*

of Opinion, That the Fleet should sail to the Coast of *France*, and annoy the Enemy not only with the Bomb-Vessels, but by landing in the Country; and that the same might be the better effected, it was desired that some more small Frigats might be sent to the Fleet, to sustain the Bomb-Vessels, which the greater Ships could not do.

The 18th of *June* another Council was called, where 'twas agreed, That some place on the Coast of *Normandy* might with most success be bombarded, and that four Regiments would be sufficient to secure the Bomb-Vessels against the Attempts of the *French*, and for other necessary Services. The

The Fleet being refitted, and the Seamen and Land-Forces refresh'd, the Queen's Orders were receiv'd the 27th of *June*, and thereupon another Council was call'd, where it was agreed, That, since the Wind was fresh Westerly, the Fleet should first proceed and bombard *Diepe*, and then do what other Prejudice they could along the *French Coast*. Being arriv'd there, they were prevented in making any Attempt, by bad Weather, which not only disperfed the Ships, but endamaged some of them in their Masts and Rigging; so that they were constrain'd to return to the Coast of *England*, and Anchored off of *Dungenesse*, where the scattered Ships and Vessels joined the 5th of *July*, and sailing thence again to *Diepe Road*, it was intended to bombard that Town the 9th in the morning; in order whereunto several of the Bomb-Vessels were advanced near in with the Shoar; but it blowing hard at night, they were prevented by the great Sea thereby occasion'd.

The 13th the Town of *Diepe* was Diepe
bombarded, and so effectually too, that ^{bombard-}
it appeared to be all in Flames, and the ^{ded}
night before a Machine Vessel was
blown up at the Pier-head, but with
little or no Success, occasioned, as was
supposed, by the Heads lying so low.

Captain *Dunbarr*, who commanded this Vessel, behaved himself with great Bravery ; for the Fuze going out, he went on board again, and set fire to it ; for which, both himself, and the Men he took with him, were deservedly rewarded.

Havre-
de-grace
bombar-
ded.

The Fleet sailed from *Diepe* the 14th in the Afternoon ; most of the few Houses that were standing being on fire, and on the 16th the Bombardment of *Havredegrace* began, which had so good effect, that the Town was on fire in several places, and burnt all that Night and the next Day ; nor were the Flames extinguished the 18th, insomuch that it was reasonably conjectured, at least a third part of the Town was consumed. The 19th the Weather was very bad, so that all the Bomb-Vessels were ordered off, and not above five of them were serviceable. As for the rest, the Mortars were either melted, or the Vessels so shattered, that no present use could be made of them ; and one of them, called the *Granada*, was entirely blown to pieces by a Bomb that fell into her.

The Fleet
proceeds
off La
Hogue,
Cner-
brook,
&c. and
then re-
pairs to
St. Hel-
lens.

A Council of War agreed it would be but losing of time to stay longer at *Havredegrace*, and therefore determined to proceed to *St. Hellens*, and endeavour

to repair the Damages received : But it was thought adviseable, if Wind and Weather would admit of it, to proceed first to *La Hogue*, or *Cherbrooke*, or both, to alarm the *French*, and draw their Land-Forces further Westward. Accordingly the Fleet sailed, and appeared off of those Places, tho' they met with ruffling Weather ; and this alarmed the *French* so much, that they fired several Guns, and made many Fires on the Shoar ; but we not being able to do any Service on them, stretched it over to *St. Hellens*, and arrived there the 26th in the Afternoon, and then all the Bomb-Vessels and Well-Boats were sent into the Harbour to be refitted, and six of the Regiments were put on Shoar by the Queen's Order. Some time was spent in getting all things ready for Service, so that the Fleet could not reach the *Downes* (as was ordered) before the 9th of *August*, and there a Council of War was called on the 17th, upon a Signification of Her Majesty's Pleasure, That an Attempt should be made on *Dunkirk*, if it should be thought practicable, and that it might not too much expose the Ships of War in this Season of the Year, on so dangerous a Coast. This Matter was debated, and all the *English* Pilots, and

The Fleet arrives in the Downs.

*A Council
of War
judge it
impracti-
cable to
attempt
Dunkirk
this Year.*

one of the *Dutch*, (the only one in the Squadron) were consulted, who would not undertake to carry a Squadron of Frigats and Fireships into *Flemish* Road; for that the distance between the Brake and the Wooden Forts was not above Pistol-shot, and that there was not Water enough for the Ships to ride Eastward; nor could they (as they said) come out again with the Wind that would carry them in. Upon Consideration whereof, and that the Season of the Year was too far advanced, as also that there were no more than 5 small Frigats, (not a fourth part of what was necessary to sustain the Bomb-Vessels, and bring off their Men, because of the Number of small Ships and Vessels the *French* might make use of to intercept them) it was agreed by the Council of War, as it was by Sir *Martin Beckman*, Colonel of the Artillery, and Mr. *Meefters*, the Inventer of the Machine Vessels prepared for this fatal Exploit against *Dunkirk*, that it was impracticable to attempt any thing, at this time, against that important Place.

But in regard the Plan of *Calais* was sent to the Fleet from *Flanders*, by the King's particular Command, the Council of War were of Opinion some Service

vice might be done there, and therefore determined to sail thither with the Bomb-Vessels; but before the Weather would let them stir, my Lord Berkeley received Orders from the Lords of the Admiralty, and thereupon called the Sea Officers together, and consulted with them only, what Attempts might be made with prospect of Success, upon the *French Ships of War in Dunkirk Road*: And although the Pilots that were discouraged thereupon, did absolutely refuse to carry in so much as a Fourth Rate Frigate, yet it was agreed, That if able Pilots could be procured, well acquainted with the Eastern and Western Passages, the Ships in the Road might be destroyed upon a Spring Tide (the only proper time for doing it) with double the number of Frigates to those of the *French*, some Fireships, Brigantines, and other Tenders.

But now the Winter Season being advanced, the Three Deck Ships were ordered the 27th of *August*, 1694, to the *Nore*, and my Lord Berkeley himself coming to Town, the rest of the Fleet was left with Sir *Cloudesty Shovell*, who was in daily expectation of proper Pilots for making the Attempt on the Ships at *Dunkirk*; but soon after Rear-Admiral *Hopson* (who in Conjunction of

The Three Deck Ships ordered to the Nore.

several *Dutch* Ships, was off of that Port to watch the Motions of Monsieur *du Bart*) informed him, that all the Pilots with them were very averse to carry in our Ships, but that it was his Opinion, as well as that of the Captains of each Nation, That with 12 Frigats and 8 Fireships, with the Sloops and Brigantines as Sir *Cloudefly* had proposed, Service might be done on the Enemy's Ships.

Mr. Meesters proposes the destroying the Forts at Dunkirk.

About this time Mr. *Meesters* (who I have before mentioned) made a Proposal for destroying the Forts before *Dunkirk* with his Machines; but whatever Success might be hoped for from those Vessels in the midst of Summer, there was little Probability of their doing much Service at this Season of the Year; so that it was not particularly insisted upon that he should attempt the Forts, but Orders were sent to him to proceed to the Coast of *Flanders*, and to endeavour to keep in the *French* Ships, and attempt them there if practicable; but if not, to send the Bombs, Machines, and other Vessels to the *Nore*.

Pursuant to these Orders he sailed, but was obliged to Anchor off of the South Foreland the 5th of *September*, to stay for the small Craft, which ran no little hazard at this time of the Year,
for

for some of them were not much bigger than Long-Boats. Here he receiv'd a Letter from Mr. *Meefters* at *Oftend*, by which he feemed confident of doing confiderable Service with his Machines at *Dunkirk*, and let him know, that in order thereunto, he was coming to the Squadron with all the hafte he could. This made Sir *Cloudefly Shovell* repair to the *Downes*, becaufe there Mr. *Meefters* might have much better conveniency of putting his Veffels into a condition for his Enterprize, than on the Coaft of *Flanders*.

Mr. *Meefters* arrived in the *Downes* the 7th, with about 26 *Dutch* Pilots, and (among other things propofed by him for the better effecting his Design) he defired that a Captain might be appointed to command the fmall Ships, with Inftuctions to follow his Advice in Sailing and Anchoring. That he might be gratified in this Particular, Captain *Benbow* (fince a Flag-Officer) was appointed to that Command, and on the 8th of September Orders were fent to Sir *Cloudefly*, that in cafe thofe Pilots Mr. *Meefters* had brought with him from *Flanders*, would undertake to carry in fuch Ships as fhould be thought neceffary, he fhould proceed, and Attempt the Pier, Harbour, and Town, or the Ships in the Road.

Mr. Meefters comes to Sir Cloudefly Shovell in the Downes with Dutch Pilots.

The Squadron being on the Coast of *Flanders* with a Northerly Wind, Mr. Meeſter's acquainted Sir *Cloudeſly Shovell*, that his Pilots were of Opinion the *French* could not carry out their Ships at the Eaſt-end of *Dunkirk*; and therefore he anchored in *Gravelin Pits*; and the Boats and Brigantines went before *Dunkirk*, under Protection of the *Sally-Roſe*, and Sounded, to make themſelves better acquainted with the Western Chanel between the *Brake* and the Main; for all the Pilots, except two or three, declared themſelves ignorant of that Paſſage. Captain *Benbow* found the Narrow to be above three Cables length in breadth, and in depth from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 Fathom, at low Water; and the Brigantines, and Sloops, that lay to and fro on the back of the *Brake*, found a great Chanel of 7, 8, 9, and 10 Fathom, at low Water, about a Mile and half broad, or ſomewhat more; that is, ſo far as they went into it, which was till they had *Dunkirk* South of them.

Captain
Benbow
ſounds the
Paſſage
into Dun-
kirk and
gives an
Account.

The French
at Dun-
kirk in a
Conſter-
nation.

The ſight of our Veſſels put the *French* into a great Conſternation, and a Fri- gat of about 20 Guns that lay in the Road, fired very ſmartly at our Boats which were got within the *Brake*. Many Guns, and ſome Bombs, were fired from the Citadel, the *Riſe Bank* and

and the Forts at the Pier-head ; and five of their Frigats, from 40 to 50 Guns each, were hawled out of the Basin, and rigg'd ; and 3 or 4 small Ships were placed in the Chanel between the Pier-heads and the Town ; but notwithstanding all this, our little Fleet of Boats, &c. came off in the Night, without having received any Damage.

The next Day, the Wind being from the North to the North-East, and fair Weather, all the Boats and small Vessels were sent in again, as was the *Charles* Galley, and two Bomb-Vessels, and some of the Machines which Mr. Meesters had appointed. When the Vessels came near the *Brake*, the *French* Frigat that lay without got up her Anchor, fired her Broad-side, and then ran into the Pier.

In the Afternoon two of the Machines were, without Success, blown up a little distance from the Pier-heads ; nor was there any great hopes of better Service from the rest, for the *French* had drove Piles without these Heads, and sunk four Ships on the back of the Westermost Pier very advantageously.

Mr.

Mr. Meesters returns to the Downes, and the Bomb-Vessels sent for, but bad Weather prevented any Service.

Mr. Meesters now informed Sir *Cloude-
slr*, That, since the Spring was past, his
Pilots would not undertake to carry the
Ships through the Sands to the East-
ward of *Dunkirk*, and that therefore
he thought it not proper to continue
longer with his Vessels on the *French*
Coast, wherefore they were sent to the
Downes, and at the same time a small
Frigat was order'd thither with Sir *Mar-
tin Beckman*, to bring the Vessels for
Bombarding *Calais*, who arriving with
them the 16th, the Squadron forthwith
proceeded off of that Place, but the
Weather proved so very bad for sever-
al Days, that little Service was done,
and both the Ships of War, and others,
were constrain'd to come into the
Downes, from whence the Bombs and
Machines were sent into the River of
Thames.

Thus ended our Attempts on the
French at home this Year; and altho' I
will not pretend to make an exact
Computation of the Expence these
Bombardments put the Nation to, yet
I do verily believe, that it was more
than equivalent to the Damage the
Enemy sustain'd thereby.

I shall now return to that part of the
Fleet which was sent to the *Streights*,
and give a particular Account of all
Trans-

Transactions, during the time that Admiral *Russell*, and, after him, Sir *George Rooke* continued in those Parts.

Mr. *Russell*, as I said before, parted with the Lord *Berkeley* on the 6th of *June*, 1694, and on the 25th of that Month he got into the Latitude of 39 Degrees, off of the Rock of *Lisbon*, at which time the *Mary* and *Adventure*, under Command of Captain *John Jennings*, were sent to Cape *St. Vincent*, where, or at some Place thereabouts, he was ordered to send his Boat on Shoar, to get Intelligence whether the Enemy was, or had been, on that Coast: And in case he got certain Advice of their being there, but that they were not so placed as to prevent the *Adventure's* passing them, he was to send her to the Bay of *Cadiz*, with a Packet to Rear-Admiral *Nevill*, (a Duplicate whereof he was also ordered to dispatch to him by Land) by which he was required to sail with all the Ships under his Command, except the *Turkey* Convoy, and join the Fleet; and for his better Government therein, the Admiral let him know, That he did design to come South, 15 or 20 Leagues from Cape *St. Vincent*, and (if the Wind continued fair) the same distance from Cape *St. Mary's*, and then 15 Leagues West from Cape *Spar-*

Admiral
Russell
arrives
off of
the Rock
of Lis-
bon.

Rear-
Admiral
Nevill
ordered
to join
him from
Cadiz.

Spartell. These Orders he was directed to Communicate to Vice-Admiral *Callemberg*, who commanded several *Dutch* Ships, that so he might accompany him, but not to discover the Reason of his Sailing to any but those who ought necessarily to know it.

The Fleet being got thus far, the Admiral settled such Rendezvouses as were proper, in case of Separation in his Passage up the *Streights*; and the 30th of *June* the *Portsmouth* was dispatched off of Cape *Spartell*, to give notice to the *Mary*, *Adventure*, and *Lark*, to make the best of their way to the Fleet, and to inform the *Spanish* Admiral, if he met him with his Squadron at Sea, of our Approach.

Rear-Admiral *Nevill*, with the two *Dutch* Vice-Admirals. *Callemberg* and *Evertsen*, joining the Fleet from *Cadiz*, with 8 *English*, and as many of the Ships of the States General, (which made the whole Number 63 Ships of the Line) a Council of War was called of all the Flag Officers, by whom it was thought most Adviseable, that the Merchant Ships bound up the *Levant*, should repair to *Carthagera*, and remain there until Care could be taken for their proceeding farther on their Voyage with Safety: And these Gentlemen taking also into
Con-

*A Council
of War
called of
English
and
Dutch
Flags.*

Consideration the Intelligence of the *French Fleet's* being off of *Barcelona*, and the adjacent Coasts, came to a Resolution, That the Fleet should forthwith proceed thither, and the necessary Rendezvouses were appointed, in case of Separation by bad Weather, or other Accidents.

*Agreed
the Fleet
shou'd
sail to
Barcelo-
na.*

Notwithstanding much bad Weather, and contrary Winds, the Fleet got off of *Cape Spartell* the First of *July*, having met with no other Damage, than the loss of two small Vessels that attended on the Admiral's own Ship.

The *Spaniards* sailed from *Cadiz* with 9 Ships of War, the same time that Rear-Admiral *Nevil* did, but had not yet join'd the Fleet; and the Admiral had now farther Advice, That the Enemy were with 70 Sail between *Alsegnes* and *Barcelona*; so that our Force (when join'd by the *Spaniards*) would be almost equal to theirs.

*Advice of
the French
Fleet.*

The Admiral writ to Mr. *Stanhope*, the *English* Envoy at *Madrid*, and let him know, That he hoped to be so timely at *Barcelona*, as to enable him to prevent farther Mischief from the *French* in those Parts: And for the greater Safety of the Fleet, two Frigats were ordered to sail on the Starboard, and two others on the Larboard Bow, but

*Cruizers
sent out
for Intel-
ligence.*

but not at so great a Distance, as to hinder their Sails being seen above Water : Nor were they upon meeting any *French* Ships to chase beyond *Cape de Gatt* ; and if they fell in with any Ships or Vessels, of what Nation soever, they were ordered to bring them into the Fleet to be examined. There were also three Frigats sent on the Coast of *Barbary*, with Orders to stretch from *Cape Tres Forcas* over to the *Christian* Shoar, to intercept any thing that the others might meet with, and chase Eastward.

During the Fleet's being under Sail, all possible Care was taken to put every Ship into a condition of doing Service, by taking Stores and other Necessaries from such as could best spare, for those that wanted ; and strictest Orders were given, That all possible good Husbandry should be used in expending their Provisions.

The Admiral being informed, that several of the Ships of War belonging to the Government of *Argier* did intend to come and view the Fleet, signified his Desire, both to the *Dutch* and others, That not only they, but the Ships of *Tunis* and *Tripoly* (with whom we were likewise in Alliance) might have that Liberty, and that no Acts of

The Argierine Men of War permitted to come into the Fleet, but one of them seized by the Dutch.

Hosti-

Hostility might be used towards them within sight of his Flag, provided they came immediately to him with their Colours flying; but notwithstanding his Hopes that this would be complied with, one of the Ships of *Argier* was soon after seized, in the Admiral's sight, by a *Dutch* Man of War; tho' such Measures were soon after taken for her Release, that neither His Majesty's Honour, or the Government of *Argier*, did suffer thereby: Nor were those People a little satisfied, as well at the generous Usage they received in this Particular, as in the seeing a Fleet in those Parts superior to what had ever been before, or probably ever may hereafter.

The 13th of *July*, 1694, the Fleet got as far as *Carthageria*, the Passage thither having been very tedious, by reason the Winds were Easterly, from the time they passed the Mouth of the *Streights*. This Impediment was very unlucky, for the Season of the Year was far advanced, and so much of their Provisions expended, that soon after they could possibly get as high as *Barcelona*, there would be a Necessity of returning again. The *French* having notice of our Approach, retired to the Isles of *Aires*, where they were the 3d

The Fleet arrives at Carthageria.

The French retire to the Isles of Aires

of this Month, and 'twas thought that they would either Disarm their great Ships, and send Squadrons up the *Levant*, or go with their whole Fleet as high as *Malta*, where they knew very well we could not pursue them. I must here observe, that the principal Reason of our Fleet's coming so late into these Parts, was the Delay made at home in the Dispatch of the Troops designed against *Brest*, and Shipping them off, when at *Portsmouth*; for had that Service been dispatched a Month sooner, there would have been a fairer Prospect of doing something this Summer within the *Streights*.

The Marquess of *Camarassa*, General of the *Spanish* Galleys, upon the Fleet's approaching *Carthagena*, sent to the Admiral a Letter, and desired to know where the Fleet and the Galleys should join; to which he returned a Compliment, and acquainted him, That he intended for *Barcelona* with all speed.

The Fleet
stops at
Altea to
Water.

The 17th of *July*, 1694, a Council of War agreed, That the Fleet should stop at *Altea* Bay, for a Supply of Water, and that the *Turkey* Convoy should remain at *Carthagena*, till further Intelligence could be had of the Enemy; to obtain which, three Frigats were sent

to

to Cruize between Cape *Martin* and *Ivica*, for 24 Hours; and the *Adventure* was ordered 8 Leagues, the *Lark* 5, and another 2 Leagues, E. S. E. from the Eastermost part of *Altea*, for 36 Hours. But notwithstanding what was thus Agreed, it was, upon further Thoughts, judged necessary to order the *Turkey* Fleet to *Alicant*, and to re-inforce them there, by two *English* and one *Dutch* Man of War; and lest they should want Provisions, or other Necessaries, the Admiral writ to the Consul at *Carthage* to furnish them.

The 25th of this Month the Admiral writ to Monsieur *Schonenberg*, Envoy from the States General at the *Spanish* Court, concerning the Circumstances of that King's Affairs: And first as to his Ships that had joined the Fleet; They were in number Ten, Four of which might indeed (for want of better) have been admitted into the Line of Battel, but the rest were of little Force, and withal so rotten, that they would hardly bear the firing of their own Guns. He then acquainted him, That the Sea-Port Towns were unprovided, both as to Men and all other War-like Preparations; insomuch that 'twas much to be feared, if a small Number

An Account of the Spanish Ships that join'd us.

The Admiral acquaints Monsieur Schonenberg with the

bad Circumstances of the King of Spain's Affairs.

R

of

of the Enemy's Ships appeared before *Malaga* or *Alicant*, and attempted to Cannonade them, they would instantly be abandoned. He also observed to him, That *Catalonia* would not be able to resist the Enemy, when the Fleet retired with the Land-Forces, in regard the *French* Army (as 'twas reported) consisted of near 25000 well disciplined Men, with all Things necessary, and that the *Spaniards* did not exceed 9000, and they even without Tents, or other Materials proper for an Encampment: And that it was very reasonable to apprehend, that when the *French* were Masters of *Barcelona*, they would soon attempt the Island of *Minorca*; which could not well resist 2000 Men 40 Hours, under its present ill Circumstances. In fine, it was his Opinion, and a well-grounded one too, That unless the Vice-Roy of *Catalonia* did make some brisk Effort on the *French*, soon after the Fleet's coming there, that Principality would be in greatest Danger, since he should be obliged to return in very little time, the Ships of the States General having not Provisions for more than all the next Month. Indeed had the *French* proceeded with Vigour, that Country would long before have fallen into their Hands;
for

for there was not an Army there capable to resist them, and even most of those that were in Arms, seem'd to be more fit for an Hospital than a Camp; nor was there Money to pay them, notwithstanding the large Contributions of the *Catalonians*, the exacting whereof by the General Officers, to the utmost Extent, rendred those People so miserable, that, in expectation of better Usage from *France*, (if that were possible) a little matter would have inclined them to a Revolt.

At this time a Noble Lord propos'd the Fleet's Wintering in the *Mediterranean*, but the Admiral acquainted him, That he could by no means think it Adviseable, since there was no Place fit to receive and protect them but *Mahone*, where there was a total want of Provisions; nor could any Stores be timely got thither to resist the Ships against the Spring. That as for *Naples* there was no Defence, and *Messina* was not large enough. But there was another material Objection; For should such a Strength be absent from *England* and *Holland* all the Winter, the *French* might make themselves too strong for us in the Chanel in the Spring.

*The Admiral's
Reasons
against
Wintering in the
Streights.*

*A Council
of War
called up-
on several
Proposals
from the
Vice-Roy
of Cata-
lonia.*

The First of *August*, 1694, the Admiral received a Letter from the Marquis *Villena*, Viceroy of *Catalonia*, desiring his Opinion in several Particulars; upon which a Council of War was called, where each Article was considered, and the following Resolutions taken thereupon.

Article I.

That the better to reinforce the Spanish Army, 10000, or at least 8000, Soldiers might be put ashore from the Fleet, to join those they had, and such as should be ordered from the Spanish Ships and Gallies.

Answer.

That none of the Ships of His Majesty of *Great-Britain*, or the States General, had any Soldiers on board them.

Article II.

That if the First Proposal could not be complied with, the Fleet might go in pursuit of the Enemy, and endeavour to destroy them.

Answer.

That formerly there was not only hopes of meeting the *French Fleet* off

off of *Barcelona*, or at Sea, but that they would have given an opportunity of Engaging them; but finding them retired to *Thoulon*, within Fortifications, too strong to be forced, the going thither would have no other Effect than the losing Time; but that, however, if certain Advice could be got that they were at Sea, or in any Port where they might be attack'd, with probability of Success, the Fleet would immediately proceed in quest of them.

Article III.

How long the Fleet could continue in those Seas?

Answer.

That in case he could undertake any Enterprize upon the Sea-Coast with his Forces, in order to the regaining any Places from the *French*, in which the Fleet might be assisting, it would be readily embraced, provided it could be done without delay, for that they had no more Provisions than was absolutely necessary for them, in their Passage to *England*.

*Vice-Roy
of Catal-
lonia his
Answer
to the Re-
sults of
the Coun-
cil of War*

The Vice-Roy returned answer, That the only Enterprize which could be made on that Coast was the regaining of *Palamos*, wherein the Sea Forces might be very useful ; but that in such Case the *Spanish* Army ought to be re-inforc'd from the Fleet : And if that could not be done, he propos'd, That the Fleet might make some Invasion on the Coast of *France* ; and what Infantry should be wanted for such a Service, he promis'd to make up from his Army. To this he was told, That the Fleet was provided for an Engagement at Sea, but not to Invade the Enemy on Shore ; and that it was not possible to furnish any Land Men to re-inforce the *Spanish* Army ; but that if he thought it convenient to send a Body of Soldiers in the Fleet, and Gallies, to attempt *Palamos*, all possible Assistance should be given therein, by arming the Boats, and small Vessels, on any sudden Assault ; and hereunto his speedy Answer was desir'd, for that it was convenient to proceed Eastward in search of the Enemy.

*The Ad-
miral lets
him know
the affi-
rance he
could give
him.*

*The Spa-
nish Forces
of his Catho-
lick Majesty
of *Palamos*.*

The Vice-Roy having consider'd this, acquainted the Admiral that the Forces of his *Catholic* Majesty were much inferior to those of the *French* ; and that having no prospect of augmenting them, he did not think it adviseable to attempt

tempt *Palamos*, or any other Place, in which the Fleet might be assisting to him; but desired to know, how long he could conveniently stay on that Coast. He was inform'd, That upon his first representation of the State of *Catalonia*, care was taken to furnish the Ships of the States General with 14 Days Provisions from the *English*, that so the Fleet might stay there as long as possible; but that since there was at this time a general want, and that many Inconveniencies might thereby happen, by the coming in of Westerly Winds, 'twas absolutely necessary to retire towards the *Streights* Mouth in five or six Days.

The Vice-Roy had represented that there was Three hundred and fifty thousand Mens Provisions for a Day, ready at this time at *Carthagena*, but it plainly appeared he was very much misinform'd in that Particular; for a single Ship that applied at that Port for only seven Days Provisions, could not be furnish'd therewith; nor was there more than 2000 Quintals of Bread; and no other Provision was made, besides what the Admiral himself had given Orders for to the Consul, on his own Account, as he pass'd up the *Streights*.

The Vice-Roy m. c. informed about the Provisions made for the Fleet.

Is apprehensive of Barcelona when the Fleet retires.

The Vice-Roy was under great apprehensions, that if the Fleet left the Coast of *Catalonia* while the Season of fair Weather lasted, the *French* would appear by Sea before *Barcelona*; but if they had such Intentions, it could not be prevented, the Fleet not being able to stay longer without running the greatest Hazard; for Provisions could not be supplied from *Spain*, especially in that part thereof. but from Day to Day, which would not only render it impossible for them to return to *England*, but to proceed on any pressing Service whatever. However, that the *French* might be as long Strangers to our retiring as 'twas possible, the Vice-Roy was desired to keep it secret, or at least to give it out that the Fleet was gone Eastward; for by this Means the Admiral was in hopes they would have no certain Advice, till he got as low as *Malaga*, by which time the Month of *September* would be well advanced, and in all probability produce bad Weather. The Vice-Roy was also desired not to let it be known, that there was not a Number of Ships to be left in the *Streights*; for that if the Enemy wanted Information in those two Points, they would not easily conclude what Measures to take, till it might be too late for them

them to attempt any thing considerable.

The 9th of *August*, 1694. the Admiral acquainted the King of *Spain*, how much it troubled him that the Fleet could do no other Services, than the keeping the *French* from further attempts in *Catalonia*, during his remaining on the Coast: That he had hopes his Majesty's Troops would have made some considerable Effort on the Enemy, at least to have regain'd *Palamos*, and other Towns on the Coast, with the Assistance of the Fleet: And he likewise thought it necessary to represent to his Majesty, That unless Care was immediately taken to put *Catalonia* in a better Posture of Defence, it would be next to an Impossibility to preserve it many Weeks under his Subjection, and that the Kingdom of *Valencia*, and the Sea-Port Towns, were in no better a Condition. That as for the Fleet, since there was no hopes of bringing the *French* to a Battel, or forcing them at *Thoulon*, nor of employing it so as to do any considerable Service, he did design to return therewith to *England*, but that he could not leave *Barcelona*, without informing his Majesty, That the Vice-Roy had not only treated him with all imaginable Civility, but zealously promoted

The Admiral writes to the King of Spain, and acquaints him of the ill Posture of his Affairs in Catalonia, &c.

ted all things that were represented to him to be necessary.

An Amusement for the French when the Fleet sailed down the Straights.

The 15th of *August*, two Third Rate Ships and one Sixth were ordered to *Cadiz*, there to Refit and Victual, and and then to Convoy the Trade from thence to *England*: And now the Fleet being ready to leave *Barcelona*, a Council of War was called, to consider in what manner the same might be done, so as to keep it most private. It was agreed, That when the Fleet sailed an Appearance should be made, the first Day, as if they were going Eastward, but that in the Night an Opportunity should be taken of getting out to Sea, and proceeding Westward; and the necessary Rendezvouses were settled in case of Separation, by stress of Weather, or Accidents.

Contents of a Letter from the Admiral to the Government of Algier.

Before the Admiral sailed he writ a Letter to the Dey of *Algier*, letting him know, That the King his Master had sent his Fleet into the *Straits*, to put a stop to the Proceedings of *France* against *Spain*; and that notwithstanding their Insinuations, that *England* had not Ships to spare for those Parts, they thought it convenient to retire from him, and secure themselves at *Thoulon*. He also acquainted that Government, That the Summer was too far spent to
admit

admit of his coming to their Port, as he had designed, and that therefore he took the present Occasion, to assure them of the great Esteem the King his Master had of their Friendship and Amity.

This Letter was sent to *Algier*, and recommended to Consul *Baker*, who was then upon coming from thence, after he had resided there many Years in that Capacity ; and that by his Negotiations, and the particular Friendship the Dey had for him, he had contributed very much to the settling a good and firm Understanding between his Majesty and that Government.

When the Fleet was got as far down the *Streights* as *Malaga*, the Admiral (contrary to Expectations) received Orders from His Majesty, under his Signet and Sign Manual, dated *August* the 7th, requiring him to continue in those Seas, and to Winter at *Cadiz*, for the more effectual putting a stop to the Mischiefs the *French* intended in *Catalonia*. This put a Period to all those Methods which had been determined for carrying the Fleet to *England*, and therefore a Council of War was called, by whom it was resolved forthwith to proceed up again as high as *Alicant*, that so the Ships of the States General might take in the

The Admiral when off of Malaga, does, contrary to Expectation, receive Orders to Winter at Cadiz.

Resolved to proceed as high as Alicant.

Provi-

Provisions said to be ready for them : And several Ships with Victuals being arrived from *England*, Orders were dispatched to *Cadiz*, for their going with-in the *Puntals* ; for the Admiral had already taken care to procure so much as might be necessary till his return thither, which he intended not until some time in *October*, unless he had certain Information that the *French* had disarmed their Ships.

He writes
to the
Vice-Roy
of Cata-
lonia.

He acquainted the Vice-Roy of *Catalonia*, That he had commands to remain in the *Mediterranean*, and desired to hear from him at *Alicant*, and particularly whether he had any Account of the *French*, or that the Fleet might be of service to that Principality. He also desired Mr. *Stanhope*, Envoy at *Madrid*, to procure Orders from that Court, that *Pontal* might be made clear for the Ships, against their arrival at *Cadiz*, for the more convenient refitting them ; and he writ very pressingly to the Lords of the Admiralty, for a timely Supply of Men and Provisions, and one of the Commissioners for Victualling to take care of that Affair, since it had already given him more trouble than he was longer able to undergo : And it may be truly said, That such Care was taken by him therein, that
never

Writes
home for
a Supply
of Men
and Pro-
visions,
&c.

never were Men furnished with better Provisions and Wine, and even that with so good Husbandry to the Publick, that it was not put to more Charge, although the Fleet was great, and consequently required very considerable Quantities, than for single Ships formerly: Nay in many Circumstances the Men were Victualled considerably cheaper; nor did he boggle at the Engaging his own Personal Estate, to give this so necessary Credit to his Country.

The Fleet being at *Alicant*, the Admiral sent from thence two light Frigates to *Mayork*, and directed the chief Commander of them to apply himself not only to the Vice-Roy, but the Consul also for News; but more particularly to desire the Consul to inform himself from all the Sateas, and other small Vessels lately arrived there, whether they had met with any Account of the Enemy. At this time Rear-Admiral *Nevil* was also sent from the Fleet, with a Squadron of 10 Ships, Southward of *Firmintiere*, with Orders to Cruize between the Islands and the Barbary Shore, for intercepting any of the Enemy's Ships in those Parts, and protecting the Ships and Vessels ordered to that Island to cut Wood for the use of

Observation about Victual-ling the Fleet.

The Admiral sends to Mayork for News.

Rear-Admiral Nevil sent with a Squadron off of Firmintiere.

of the Fleet, and then to return Northward to *Alicant*, between the Islands and Cape *Martin*, if Wind and Weather would permit.

The Admiral taken dangerously Ill, and the Fleet committed by him to Vice-Admiral Aylmer.

Instructions to Vice-Admiral Aylmer.

During the Fleet's riding before *Alicant*, the Admiral was taken dangerously Ill of a Fever, and Bloody Flux, which in few Days obliged him to go on Shore; and my self at that time falling under the same Distemper, accompanied him. But that the Fleet might not lie idle in his absence, he gave Orders to Vice-Admiral *Aylmer* to take upon him the Command thereof, and to proceed and join the Ships with Rear-Admiral *Nevil*, near *Firmentiere*, so soon as 'twas possible. It was particularly recommended to him to gain Intelligence of the Proceedings of the *French*, and to prevent their getting out of the *Mediterranean*; and in order thereunto to lie in such Stations, and to employ the Ships of the Fleet in such manner, as should from time to time be advised by a Council of War: And upon meeting the Enemy's Fleet, or any part thereof, he was directed to use his best Endeavours to come up with and destroy them, and to chase them with the whole Fleet, or such number of Ships as should be thought most advisable, without having any regard

to

to the Admiral's being on Shore, or expecting further Orders from him for his Proceeding. It was also recommended to him, upon his discovering any *French* Ships standing Westward, and endeavouring to pass the *Streights*, to take care that such a Number of Ships as might at least equal their Force, were sent after them as far as they should go, or till such time as they could come up with, and attack them, and to proceed himself with the remainder to *Cadiz*, and continue there till further Order. But in case he did not see the *French* Fleet in six Days after his being at Sea, or gain Information of their being come from *Thoulon*, he was then to return with the whole Fleet to *Alicant*; for by that time the Admiral had hopes of being in a Condition to come on Board.

Pursuant to these Orders Mr. *Aylmer* put to Sea with the Fleet, and meeting with nothing remarkable returned the 10th of *September*, 1694; but the Admiral being not then recovered of his Sickness, he sent him Orders to call a Council of War, and maturely to consider of the several Particulars following, that so no time might be lost, when he himself could be able to return and take upon him the Command.

Mr. Aylmer ordered to consider of several Particulars at a Council of War.

1. Whether it was necessary for the Fleet to continue longer within the *Streights*?
2. Whether it might be convenient, when they return'd to *Cadiz*, to leave some Ships, either within or without the *Streights*, to intercept any of the Enemy's Ships that might attempt to proceed into the Northern Seas: And if so, what Number of each Rate, and on what Station they might most properly lie to effect the same.
3. And since it was reported, that the *French* kept their Ships at *Thoulon* in a constant readiness to proceed to Sea, by which 'twas reasonable to believe they intended either the whole or part of them to *Brest*, so soon as Opportunity should offer for their passing the *Streights*, he was therefore to consider at a Council of War, what Ships in the Fleet were in the best Condition, and most proper to follow them, that so the latter Part of His Majesty's Orders might be complied with, in case they should make such an Attempt.

This was the Care the Admiral took, notwithstanding his Indisposition had brought him very low ; for the *French* kept themselves in a constant Readiness at *Thoulon*, both as to Provisions, Men, &c. and if they had endeavoured to pass the *Streights*, and our Fleet had been at the same time at *Cadiz*, they might have had many Advantages of us ; for, in the first place, most or all of their Ships were kept clean, whereas ours were foul, and consequently little Benefit could have attended our chasing them. Next, there was an impossibility of doing it ; for we had Provisions but from Hand to Mouth, much less for a Squadron for a Voyage to *England*. Besides, whatever the *French* might attempt, upon the Advantage of their being so well appointed, yet considering the ill Circumstances of most of our Ships, the Hazard would not have been inconsiderable, of sending them home at a Season of the Year wherein they would have been exposed to the worst of Weather, especially the nearer they drew towards our Chanel ; nor indeed were the Ships Mann'd for such an Undertaking.

The Admiral received some Intelligence from the Vice-Roy of *Catalonia*, of the *French* Fleet's being at Sea ; and

Advantages the Enemy had for passing the Streights, and our ill Condition to follow them.

*Methods
taken for
getting
Intelli-
gence.*

the Consul at *Mayorke* acquainted him, That he had met with like Information: But he had other Advices, more to be depended upon, that they were harboured at *Thoulon*. However, that he might not want a constant and true Account of their Motion, he desired the said Consul to hire some proper Vessel, and to send her from time to time to *Thoulon*, loaden with Goods that might most conveniently, and with least Suspicion, be vended there, and under the Care of some trusty and discreet Person, who might inform himself, and give frequent Accounts of the Circumstances of the Enemy's Fleet. But lest the *French* should pass through the *Streights* along the *Barbary* Shore, a Frigat was sent to *Oran*, and her Captain directed to inform himself whether they had been seen off of that Coast, and then to join the Fleet: And another Frigat was sent on the like Errand along the said Coast, as high as *Tetuan*.

The Court of *Spain* being now informed, that His Majesty had ordered the Fleet to remain in the *Mediterranean*, a Memorial was sent to the Admiral, by Order of His Catholick Majesty, from Don *Alonso Carrero*, Secretary of the Universal Dispatch, proposing, a-
mong

mong other Things, That the Fleet might
 Winter at Port *Mahone*. The Admiral
 returned him for Answer, " That he
 " was not a little surprized at such a
 " Proposition ; for that nothing could
 " be had from the Island of *Minyorke*,
 " altho' the Fleet was under never so
 " pressing Necessities. Besides, all the
 " Stores and Provisions to be sent from
 " *England*, must, in such case, have
 " been brought to Port *Mahone*, so that
 " the *French* would have had a large
 " Sea to range in search of them ;
 " and should there have happened a
 " Want but of the least Thing to en-
 " able a Ship to go to Sea, there she
 " must have lain, till such time as it
 " could be conveyed to her from *Ca-*
 " *diz* or *Naples* : Whereas if the Fleet
 " Winter'd at *Cadiz*, as the King had
 " ordered, it would be then in his
 " Power to send Ships from thence to
 " protect any Supply from *England*, or
 " to furnish himself there upon any
 " immergent Occasion.

The Spaniards propose the Fleet may Winter at Port Mahone.

The Admiral's Objections thereunto.

And now the Admiral being pretty
 well recover'd, he repaired on board
 the Fleet in the Road of *Alicant*, and
 having given the Necessary Orders, and
 appointed the Rendezvous in case of
 Separation, both within and out of
 the *Streights*, he sailed and arrived at
Cadiz.

The Fleet arrives at Cadiz.

Cadiz the 8th of *October*, 1694, having sent thither before some light Frigats to be clean'd, in order to their being employed as Cruizers.

The
French
being at
Palamos,
the Spa-
nish King
desires
the Ad-
miral to
find that
way.

The *Spanish* King receiving Advice from *Barcelona*, that the *French* were come to *Palamos*, with design to carry on the Siege of *Barcelona*, His Majesty desired the Admiral to repair with the Fleet that way; whereupon it was determined, That so soon as the *Dutch* Ships could be furnished with Provisions, the whole Fleet should proceed up the *Streights*: But the Admiral acquainted His Majesty, “That he much
“doubted the Truth of the Intelli-
“gence; and observed withal, that if
“some greater Strength was not put
“into *Barcelona*, there would be no
“great occasion for the *French* to draw
“their Naval Force thither, for that,
“under its present Circumstances, he
“was of Opinion it could not sup-
“port it self against a Four Day’s Siege.
However the Admiral endeavoured by all Ways to gain Intelligence of the Motion of the Enemy’s Fleet, and that they might not have Accounts of his Proceedings at *Cadiz*, he ordered the Ships that rid farthest out in the Bay, to speak with all Embarcations that should either come in or go out, and

still -
His fleet
in *Cadiz*
Bay, to
prevent
Intelli-
gence

to

to detain those bound Eastward, till such time as it should be considered whether it might be proper to let them proceed.

The 22d, a Council of War was called, in order to consider how the Fleet might be best posted to prevent the *French* passing the *Streights*, and it was Agreed, That so soon as the Wind came up Easterly, they should repair off of Cape *Spartell*, and, with a Westerly Wind, proceed up the *Streights*, and Anchor off of *Malaga*, but return to the Station off of Cape *Spartell* when the Wind came up Easterly, and several Ships were some days after sent to Cruize off of the said Cape, and along the *Barbary* Shore, Cape *St. Vincent*, and the Rock of *Lisbon*, with strict Orders, That upon gaining any Intelligence of the *French* Fleet, they should repair to *Cadiz* Bay with an Account thereof.

Resolution where the Fleet might best lie to prevent the Enemy coming thro' the Streights

At this time there was but little prospect of Service; nor indeed was the Fleet in any extraordinary Condition for it, the *English* and *Dutch* wanting very near 3000 Men of their allowed Number; for which reason the Admiral writ to *England* for a timely Supply, and desired 2000 well-disciplined Soldiers: And now he was informed by the *Spanish* Secretary, That the Peo-

A great Want of Men, and the Admiral writ home for a Supply, and 2000 Land-Soldiers.

Ground-
less Fear
of the
Spani-
ards,
That the
French
would at-
tack us
in Cadiz
Bay.

ple of *Catalonia* were freed from their Apprehensions of the *French* this Season, but that he feared they would attack the Fleet in the Bay of *Cadiz*. To divert him from that melancholy and groundless Apprehension, the Admiral assured him, ' That he would never have above two or three Ships ' disarmed at one time, and that there- ' fore the Enemy would have very ' good Fortune indeed to force him in ' that Harbour, unless their Numbers ' did much exceed his. He put him in mind, ' That his Catholick Ma- ' jesty had not above four Ships that ' were able to swim, and that if he in- ' tended to join any Force to the *Eng- ' lish* and *Dutch* the next Spring, some ' better Care ought to be taken to put ' his Armada into a Condition for Ser- ' vice.

Notwithstanding it was concluded at a Council of War to put to Sea with the Fleet, yet since the Weather continued very violent till the 8th of *November*, with Rain, Thunder, and Lightning, it was then judged not fit to stir, especially since there was no News of the *French* Fleet, and that in all probability they would not venture out, since the Winter Season was so very far advanced: Wherefore it was determined
to

to make all possible Dispatch, in putting each Ship into a Condition for Service against the Spring; a Task not very inconsiderable, considering the Number and Magnitude of the Ships, and the Want of several necessary Materials for the doing thereof: However the Work was vigorously carried on, and Care was not only taken to prevent a Surprise, but to be in a Condition of following the *French*, upon any Intelligence the Cruizers should bring; for all the Ships, not sent within the *Puntals* to clean, (which were but few at a time) were ordered to be in a constant Readiness for Sea, the First and Second Rates with not less than a Month's Water each, and those inferior to them, with six Weeks.

The King of *Spain* being in want of Shipping to transport about 7000 Men from *Italy* to *Barcelona*, desired the Admiral that he would make Provision for that Service; but His Majesty was acquainted, 'That tho' he would do his utmost to comply with his Commands, in this and all other Things, yet it was impossible for him to find Convenience for the transporting of those Troops, because the Men of War were not able to receive them, and that it would not be safe, if they

The Repairs of the Fleet gone vigorously in hand with.

King of Spain desires the Admiral to transport 7000 Men for Italy to Barcelona.

His Objections thereunto.

Promises
a Convoy
to the
Trans-
ports.

‘ could take them in, considering the
‘ Sickness it might occasion both to the
‘ Seamen and Soldiers, by their being
‘ pestered : Besides, the sending a Squa-
‘ dron of Ships for transporting such a
‘ Number of Men, would have wholly
‘ obstructed the refitting of the Fleet;
‘ and therefore he proposed to His Ma-
‘ jesty, that a sufficient Number of
‘ Transport Ships might be got ready
‘ at *Genoua*, which if His Majesty ap-
‘ proved of, he promised to appoint a
‘ proper Convoy for them, since none
‘ of his own Ships were fit for such a
‘ Service : But, even in this Case, he
‘ desired that he might know the
‘ certain time when they would be
‘ ready to Embark, and that the De-
‘ sign might be kept with all possible
‘ Secrecy ; for that otherwise he could
‘ not well answer for their Security,
‘ since the *French* might, from their
‘ Neighbouring Ports, send out a Squa-
‘ dron to intercept them.

Governor
of Cadiz
proposes
the Trans-
porting
5000 an-
ny.

Notwithstanding this, the Governor
of *Cadiz* delivered him another Letter
from the *Spanish* King, letting him know,
That his Majesty intended 5000 Men
only should be Transported from *Genoua*
to *Savona*, and that care should be ta-
ken for Embarcations for those that
were designed from *Naples* : But as for
those

those 5000, his Majesty recommended it to his Care, to see them Transported to *Barcelona* on board some Ships of the Fleet.

The Admiral had some Discourse with the Governor of *Cadiz* on this Subject, who seemed throughly convinced, that these Troops could not be conveniently received on board the Men of War; but he did not think *Genova* would be the most proper Place to hire Transports for them; whereupon the Admiral offered to assist in providing Vessels at *Cadiz*, and promised, that he would have a Convoy ready for them, altho it would greatly obstruct his Measures: He also assured him, That he would write to *England*, for the adding 2000 Land Soldiers to the Number already promised; and that his Catholick Majesty might have a true Account of what passed, in relation to this Matter, he sent it to him through the hands of his Secretary of State.

The Admiral discourses him there-upon.

The latter end of *December*, 1694, several Ships arrived from *England*, and brought the Admiral a Commission appointing him Admiral, Chief Commander, and Captain-General of their Majesty's Navy, and Ships employed, and to be employed in the Narrow Seas, and in the *Mediterranean*. With this Convoy

Some Officers and Stores arrive at Cadiz. Convoy arrived some Officers and Artificers, as well as Stores, for refitting the Fleet, though that Work was in a great Measure already performed.

Captain Killigrew sent up the Streights with a Light Squadron. The *Plimouth*, *Falmouth*, *Carlisle*, *Newcastle*, *Adventure*, and *Southampton*, were detached from the Fleet, under Command of Captain *James Killigrew*, who was directed to proceed as high as *Allicant*, in search of some *French Ships*, said to have been seen off of that Coast, but not hearing of them, to cruize six

His Instructions. Days off of the South-end of *Sardinia*, unless the Captains with him should think it proper to run off of *Cape Corsica*. When the six Days were expired he was to sail to *Cape Passaro*, upon the Island of *Sicily*, and about that Island, or between that and *Malta*, to cruize till the 12th of *February*, for protecting the Trade, and annoying the *French*. When he had so done, he was ordered to call in at *Messina*, where if he found the *Turky* Convoy he was to accompany them to *Cadiz*; but if they were not arrived; to leave a Letter with the Consul for the Commander in Chief of the said Convoy, whereby he was directed (if Captain *Killigrew* should be come away) to remain at *Messina* for the Security of the Ships, and to give early Advice to the Admiral of his arrival; unless

unless he should be thoroughly satisfy'd that the *French* had no force to intercept him in his passage to *Cadiz*; and Captain *Killigrew* was farther directed, if he came down the *Streights* without the said Convoy, to call at *Leghorne* and *Barcelona*, and to bring from thence what Advice he could get of the Proceedings of the *French*. In the Execution of these Orders he met with two of the Enemy's Ships between Cape *Bona* and *Pontalarea*. He himself came first up with them, and in a little time his Foremast was shot away by one of them, called the *Content*, of 70 Guns, and the Ship had not been long engag'd e're he himself was killed. The *Falmouth* and *Adventure* fell to work with the other, called the *Trident*, of 60 Guns; but Captain *Norrice* of the *Carlisle*, the Sternmost of our Ships, fetch'd just to Leeward of the *Falmouth*, and to Windward of the *Plimouth*, and, after firing at the *Trident*, stood after the *Content* with all the Sail he could make, and took her after a Chase of 50 Leagues, and that her Mainmast, Mizzen, and Mizzen-top-mast, were shot by the Board; and the other Ships took the *Trident*; so that this Action prevented their proceeding further on the Service they were appointed, and they

This Squadron meets with two French Ships of War, and takes them.

they brought their Prizes to the Fleet.

The Delays of the Spaniards in fitting their Ships.

The Admiral finding that little or no Preparations were made for equipping those few Ships the King of *Spain* had, he thought it necessary to represent the same to that Court; as also, That if they could not get their Transports ready so timely, as that the Convoy he designed to send with them might return by the latter end of *February*, it would not be safe for him to comply with what he had promised, as to that particular; for that the Enemy would in all probability have part of their Fleet at Sea, even where the Forces were to be Transported, and thereby subject the Ships of War, as well as the Forces, to the greatest Hazard.

A Supply of Provisions arrives from England

The 5th of *February*, 1694, a Supply of Provisions arrived from *England*, and very seasonably too, for there was not only a great want thereof in the Fleet, but such Victuals as was proper could not be had without great difficulties in *Spain*.

Governor of Cadiz presses sending the Convoy with Trans-

The Governor of *Cadiz* informed the Admiral, That the Transport Ships, he had been so long providing there, were ready to proceed to *Final* for the Soldiers, but was answered, That the time *Specie* and is told the Fleet would sail in 14 Days, &c.

pro-

proposed for the Convoy's going with them was elapsed, and that since it was not known what forwardness the *French* were in at *Thoulon*, and that the whole Fleet would probably be ready to sail in 14 Days, he thought it proper to consider well of it, before he exposed so many of the King his Master's Ships on this Service.

The 3d of *March*, the Governor writ him another Letter, earnestly desiring him to send away the Convoy; but the Admiral let him know, That since they were of necessity to pass by the *French* Ports, it might be of worse consequence to *Catalonia*, should the Convoy and Forces be intercepted in their Passage from *Final* to *Barcelona*, than the detaining the Ships some few days longer at *Cadiz*, in order to their going under the Protection of the whole Fleet; and that he was the rather inclined to have a more than ordinary regard to their Safety, since 'twas hinted at, both in the *French* and *Spanish* Prints, that he had promised to detach a Convoy from the Fleet.

*The Hazard a
separate
Squadron
would be
exposed to*

It was reasonable to think that if the *French* did intend to pass the *Streights*, with the whole or part of their Fleet, they would be now drawing down, and therefore the Admiral detached

Rear-
Admiral
Nevil
detached
with a
strong
Squadron
to hinder
the French
getting
thro' the
Streights.

detached a strong Squadron off of Cape *Spartell*, under Command of Rear-Admiral *Nevil*, to intercept them, should they make such an Attempt; but he was nevertheless at liberty, as Winds and Weather might happen, to Anchor in *Tangier* Bay, or to lie Eastward of the *Streights* Mouth; and if he met not Orders to the contrary in 12 Days, he was to return to the Fleet in the Bay of *Cadiz*.

The ill
Condition
of the
Spanish
Armada.

Soon after this the whole Fleet was ready to sail, staying only for the greatest part of the Victuallers, which were not arrived from *England*: But as for the *Spanish* Armada, they were so far from being in a Condition for the Sea, that not so much as one of them was Careened, so that little Service was expected from them; but the Admiral acquainted the *Spanish* Secretary, That he had hopes their Gallies would be ready at *Barcelona*, because if any Service could be done against the Enemy by Landing Men, they would be of great use, as also if he met the *French* Fleet, who doubtless would have theirs in Company with them.

The Ad-
miral de-
sires their
Galleys
may be
ready.

The Go-
vernor of
Cadiz
presses a-
gain the
sending a
Convoy
for the
Fleet.

The Embarking of the Soldiers at *Final* did greatly trouble the *Spanish* Court, insomuch that on the 8th of *April*, 1695, the Governor of *Cadiz* pressed very earnestly, that a Convoy might be forth-

forthwith sent with the Transport Ships, to prevent Desertion, and the ill Consequences that might attend their not being Landed before the *French* opened the Campaign in *Catalonia*. The Admiral acquainted him, That he was not without Thoughts of all the Inconveniencies that might attend a Disappointment of this nature, and that it did not a little trouble him they would not follow his Advice, in providing Transports for the Forces at the Ports in *Italy*; for that they had lost very much time, by taking up at *Cadiz* such Ships for this Service as, by Agreement, were first to be freighted at that Port: However he assured him, That with the first fair Weather he would proceed with the whole Fleet up the *Streights*, tho' he was in great want of Provisions, but more especially Bread.

The Admiral's Answer.

Not many Days after, the Land Forces under Command of Brigadier General *Stewart* arrived, being his own Regiment, and those of the Marquess *Puizar*, Colonel *Brudenell*, and Colonel *Coote*, which were in all about 4500 Men, Officers included; and with the same Convoy came the Victuallers, and 12 Bomb-Vessels, so that 'twas not many Days after before the Fleet sailed; but ere the Admiral left *Cadiz*, he de-

Brigadier General Stewart arrives with the Land Forces from England.

The Fleet sails from Cadiz.

fired

fired the Protection and Favour of the Governor towards the King's Subjects Trading thither ; and altho' I do in some measure know the reason of this Request, yet it may not be convenient to say more of it here, than that there was occasion to put him in mind of doing so good an Office.

Cruizers sent out, and the Directions given them.

The Fleet being now at Sea, the Cruizers were sent on several Stations for Intelligence ; and if they met with any News of the Enemy from Foreigners, they were ordered to detain the chief Officer, till such time as it could appear whether the same was true or false ; for it had often been known that several of them had not been very sincere, particularly the *Genoeze*, who in that, as well as many other Particulars, did not so behave themselves as might have been reasonably expected.

The Turkey Convoy ordered to remain at Messina.

The 5th of May, 1695, Orders were sent to the Commander of the *Turkey* Convoy at *Messina*, to remain there in a constant posture of Sailing, till an Additional Strength could be sent to him ; and the Fleet arriving at *Alicant*, little stay was made there, for they came to *Barcelona* the 18th ; but before they Anchored in the Bay, the Admiral sent to the Marquess *Gastanaga*, desiring him to communicate what Intelligence he

The Fleet comes to Barcelona.

he had of the Enemy's Proceedings, that so he might the better govern himself in the appointing a Convoy for the Transport Ships; but to this he received no satisfactory Answer.

During the Fleet's being at *Barcelona*, the Admiral was well assured that several Subjects of *England* were compelled to serve the *French* King in *Catalonia*, and that they were desirous to return to their own Country; wherefore he issued out several Declarations, promising them, or those of other Nations, who would quit the *French* Service, and repair to the Consul at *Barcelona*, that they should either be entertained among our Land Forces, in the Marine Regiments, or in the Fleet, and that whenever any of them should desire to return home, they should have a Passport: Besides which, each Man, upon his appearing aboard the Admiral's own Ship, was promised Clothes and a Pistole in Money; and this Project had in a great measure its desired effect.

Invitation to several English, &c. in the French Army to come in to us.

The 20th of *May*, 1695, in the Morning, the Admiral sailed, and the next Day gave Orders to Rear-Admiral *Nevil*, That when he made a Signal by an *English* Ensign at his Fore-topmast-head, and fired a Gun, he should make the best of his way to *Final*, with five Third Rates,

The Fleet sails from Barcelona, and Rear-Admiral Nevil sent to Final with the Third Rates, sports.

Rates, one Sixth, two Fireships, a Brigantine, and an Advice-boat of the *English*, and three Ships of War of the States General, of 72 Guns each. He was directed to take with him the Transport Ships, and to make all possible Dispatch in getting the Soldiers on Board, and then to repair to the Rendezvous off the Isles of *Aires*, but not finding the Fleet there, to proceed to *Barcelona*; and a Frigate was sent off of *Cape Thoulon* for Intelligence of the Enemy's Proceedings.

The Admiral
proposes
to the
Court of
Savoy,
the at-
tempting
Thou-
lon with
their and
our For-
ces.

His Royal
Highness
his Deter-
mination
there-
upon.

By Rear-Admiral *Nevil* the Admiral sent a Letter to the Earl of *Galloway*, by which he desired his Lordship to let him know, Whether there was a probability of doing any Service with the Fleet at the *French* Ports, and particularly, whether with our Troops, and such Strength as the Duke of *Savoy* could add to them, they, and the Fleet together, might not attempt even *Thoulon* it self, with Hopes of Success. This Letter was communicated to his Royal Highness, and the Marquess *Leganez*, and thereupon a Council was called, where it was determined, that nothing could be done in this Affair, for that they thought it reasonable to adhere to their former Resolutions against *Cassal*, of which Place they soon after made themselves Masters. The

The First of *June* Sir *David Mitchell*, then Rear-Admiral of the Red, was ordered to proceed off of *Marsellis*, when the Admiral made the appointed Signal, and to take with him one Third Rate, six Fourths, two Fifths, two Fireships, and two Brigantines, of the *English*, and three *Dutch* Ships, commanded by Vice-Admiral *Evertsen*. It was Recommended to him when he came off of the aforesaid Port, carefully to observe the Fortifications said to be erected there, and to report his Opinion, Whether there was any probability of doing Service with the Bomb-Vessels: And Brigadier General *Stuart*, with the Colonels of the Land-Forces, were appointed to accompany the Rear-Admiral, as also Sir *Martin Beckman*, who had the Command of those Vessels: But the next Day a violent Storm arose, and drove the Fleet 50 Leagues Southward, under a main Course only, which made the Ships complain much of Leakiness, and the Rear-Admiral was thereby forced from the Coast, and prevented in the putting his Orders in Execution.

Sir David Mitchell sent with a Squadron off of Marsellis.

A violent Storm drives the Squadron 50 Leagues Southward.

The 7th of *June*, Orders were sent to the *Turkey* Convoy to repair to *Callary* in the Island of *Sardinia*, to be joined there by some more Ships for the greater Security of that Trade, for which

The Turkey Convoy ordered to Callary.

The
Trans-
ports ar-
rive, and
are sent
to Barce-
lona.

purpose the *Newcastle* and *Adventure* were sent to that Port : And now the Transport Ships being come to the Fleet, they were dispatched with a Convoy to *Barcelona*, and a Frigate was sent to *Thoulon* to get an Account of the Enemy's Ships in that Harbour.

The Ad-
miral ac-
quaints
the Vice-
Roy of
Sardinia,
that the
Fleet will
come
there to
Water.

Soon after the *Greyhound*, a nimble Frigate, was dispatched with Advice to the *Conde de Atta Mia*, Vice-Roy of *Sardinia*, That the Fleet would suddenly touch there to take in Water ; but the Admiral let him know, That it was of greatest Consequence to keep it a Secret, till such time as he returned again to the *French Coast*, and therefore desired, that a strict Embargo might be laid, and continued, on all the Embarkations in every Port of the Island, till he should be got to Sea again, that so the Enemy might not have an opportunity of slipping away Westward ; but yet that this Embargo might be laid in such manner, as to give the least ground of Suspicion that the Fleet was coming thither.

The Fleet being supplied with Water, and the *Turkey Ships* not yet arrived, the Admiral judged it not convenient to stay longer for them, and therefore the *Greyhound* was left with a Letter for the Commander of the Convoy,

voy, directing him to proceed immediately to *Mayorke*, and if he met with no Intelligence of the Enemy, or Orders to the contrary there, to repair to and remain at *Carthagena* till further Order: But before the Fleet got clear of *Callary* this Convoy appeared, and instead of their Rendezvousing at *Mayorke*, if separated before they came to *Carthagena*, *Alfagues* on the Coast of *Catalonia* was now appointed, and there they were to remain till farther Order.

The Turkey Convoy ordered to Alfagues in Catalonia.

The 19th of *July*, 1695, the Fleet arrived off of *Barcelona*, and the Admiral acquainted the Vice-Roy with his Design of going to *Thoulon*, but that if he found there could be nothing done there, or at *Marselles*, or that the Duke of *Savoy* could not propose any Service now *Cassal* was taken, he would return to *Barcelona*: But soon after he received a Letter from the Vice-Roy, desiring that the whole, or part of the Fleet, might go off *Blanos*; upon which (notwithstanding a Council of War had before thought it most for the Service of the Fleet to proceed to the Coast of *Provence*) the Admiral prepared to repair forthwith to that Place, but, before he sailed, ordered the *Turkey Convoy* to *Cadiz*, and from thence

The Fleet arrives at Barcelona.

The Vice-roy desires him to proceed to Blancos.

The Turkey Convoy ordered to Cadiz.

to *England* with some Ships appointed to strengthen them there.

*A Survey
taken
of the
Condition
of the
Fleet, and
the Ad-
miralty
acquaint-
ed there-
with.*

That the Lords of the Admiralty might be particularly informed of the State of the Fleet, with respect to their Hulls, &c, he caused a strict Survey to be taken thereof, and represented to them, That the greatest part of the First, Second, and Third Rates, were in such Condition as required their going to *England* the first Season of fair Weather, but that the *Sovereign*, *St. Andrew*, *Duke*, *St. Michael*, *Sandwich*, *Suffolk*, *Grafton*, *Edgar*, *Warspight*, and some other Ships, ought even at that time to be sent home; for that should they be continued at *Cadiz* another Winter, it was his Opinion they would hardly swim: For which Reason he assured them, That he would rather take his Fortune with a small Strength, than hazard the Nation's losing so many Ships; and without them there would remain with him but 44 *English* and *Dutch*, from the Fourth Rate upwards.

*The Spa-
nish Ge-
neral ac-
quainted
how long
our Forces
would
continue
on Shore.*

The Admiral desired Brigadier General *Stuart* to acquaint the General of the *Spanish* Battalia, That the Troops (which were about 3000 Men) could not be longer on Shoar than six or seven Days, that so the Vice-Roy might consider how they could be most serviceable

viceable to him in that time for the regaining of *Palamos*: And that no Misunderstanding might arise about this Matter, he desired that what pass'd between them might be put down in Writing.

The Admiral was the more inclined to remain some little time longer at *Barcelona*, by reason that he was not in condition to face the Enemy now he had sent so many Ships home, under Command of Sir *John Munden*, should they, upon his Approach, come out of *Thoulon* with their whole Strength, till such time as the *Dutch* Ships expected from *Cadiz*, part of their Quota, had joined him. Nor did he labour under small Difficulties from the various Importunities of the *Spaniards*, and the little Regard they had to the doing what might be of Service to themselves, or even to enable him to contribute towards it; insomuch that he thought himself obliged to represent the Matter to the Court of *Spain*, and to let them know how little they had complied with their Promise to him, when at *Cadiz*, in assisting him with their Ships of War and Gallies according to the Treaty: That he thought the King his Master had been very ill used, and the Affairs committed to his

The Reason of the Admiral's staying so long at Barcelona.

A reasonable Complaint made by the Admiral, of the little Assistance given by the Spaniards

Trust and Charge, very much obstructed by their dilatory Proceedings. In fine, that having promised the Vice-Roy of *Catalonia* all the Assistance he could on any sudden Enterprize, if no such Thing could be undertaken, he should be necessitated to take proper Measures for his Master's Interest, and to leave the Management of Matters in *Spain* to their own Conduct.

The Admiral did also acquaint the Vice-Roy, That since the Troops were included in the Numbers established on the Ships, he could not, with Prudence, admit of their marching far into the Country, since their Return would be very uncertain, and that the Fleet would, for want of them, be exposed to Hazard should the *French* appear; but that if any Place could be attempted without the Formality of a long Siege, he would to his utmost assist in it.

The Vice-Roy determines to march towards Palamos.

Hereupon the Vice-Roy determined to march towards *Palamos*, designing to be so near that Place on the 7th of this Month, as that when the *English* and *Dutch* Forces were on Shore, an Hour's March might enable them to join him; and, by their Assistance, he was in hopes to oblige the Forces in that Place to a speedy Surrender. The Admiral communicated this to Brigadier
Gene-

General *Stewart*, and it being agreed in what manner the Forces should be put on Shore, the necessary Care was taken to furnish them with Provisions, and all Things necessary, and a considerable Number of Marine Soldiers were incorporated with them. It was agreed between the Vice-Roy and the Brigadier General, that the Forces should be landed the 9th in the Morning, and that he should follow the Orders of the said Vice-Roy, or any other Superiour Officer, according to the Discipline of War.

All the Long-Boats in the Fleet were ordered to be got ready, with a Lieutenant, and two Gunners Mates to each, to attend Sir *Martin Beckman* upon the first Signal that should be made for Bombarding *Palamos*; and the Admiral did not only Recommend it to the Vice-Roy to give the Brigadier General the Post due to him on all Occasions, but desired also that the Soldiers might be in readiness to Embark, upon a Signal of the Enemy's approaching with a Naval Force.

It is agreed to put the Land-Forces on Shore from the Fleet.

The Admiral received from the Brigadier General frequent Accounts of his Movements, from the time he landed, and thereupon he let the Vice-King know his Opinion, That since the

*The Admiral's
Opinion
about at-
tacking
Palamos.*

the Enemy appeared in Battalia, it was to prevent his laying Siege to the Town, and that therefore if his Troops, with the Reinforcement from the Fleet, were not sufficient both to attack the Town, and to face the Enemy, there was but small Hopes of carrying the Place, in-somuch that it was most Adviseable for the *Spanish* Forces to march off to their former Posts, whilst he, with the Bomb-Vessels, endeavoured to lay the Town in Ashes.

*An Ac-
count of
the Pro-
ceedings
of our
Forces in
conjuncti-
on with
the Spa-
niards.*

Altho' the Business of the two Armies does not properly relate to the Design in hand, yet it is possible the Reader may expect some farther Account of that Matter, since it is already mentioned; and therefore please to take it as follows, *viz.*

On *Friday* the 9th of *August*, 1695, there was landed near 4000 Men, *English* and *Dutch*, the first commanded by Brigadier General *Stewart*, and the others by Count *Nassau*, and by Nine in the Morning they marched, and encamped at Night half way between the Landing-place and *Palamos*. At this time there was no other Account of the Enemy, than that they were at a Place called *Brisball*, about 3 Leagues from our Forces; but the next Morning

ning when our Men, who had the Van of the Army, marched out of the narrow Ways into a D'fillé; the *French* appeared in great Numbers, especially Horse: Notwithstanding which our Men marched on, and possessed the Ground designed for them near the Town, and then the whole Encamped, as well as any Army could that had not any one material Thing necessary for it.

The next Morning the Enemy appeared in Battalia upon the Hills about a League off, and (as the Deserters said) were resolved to give Battel, so that all this Day, and the Night too, the Army lay under their Arms, and our Men not only without Tents, but even the Bread which the *Spaniards* had promised to provide for them: But so little Care had they taken of This, or indeed of any Thing to secure themselves, that had not our People carried on Shore some Pole-Axes, Spades, and other Conveniencies, no Intrenchments could have been made.

Early the next Day the *French* appeared drawn up within half an Hour's march; but after advancing about 200 Yards, they wheeled off; and this gave our People the first Opportunity of rest since their Landing.

The

*The Town
and Castle
of Palamos
bombarded.*

The Admiral now gave Orders for Bombing the Town and Castle, which was done so effectually; notwithstanding the Sea ran high, that most part both of one and t'other was beaten down, and the remainder was on fire in several Places: And thus ended the Attempt on *Palamos*; for the Vessel which was sent to the Coast of *Provence*, return'd to the Fleet the next Day, and brought two of the Inhabitants of *Thoulon*, who positively affirmed, That the *French* had 60 Ships of War, ready in all respects to put to Sea, and thereupon the Admiral sent to the Marquis *Gastanaga*, and desired the Men might be returned, the better to enable him to go in search of the Enemy, advising him not only to march away at the same time with the *Spanish* Army, but representing to him how improbable it was for him to take *Palamos*, since our Forces and theirs joined, were but equal to the Enemy, and barely so too. The Vice-Roy was of the Admiral's Opinion, but all or most of his General Officers were for setting down before the Town; and such was their uneasiness, that some of them could not refrain letting some words fall to the Prince of *Hesse*, who commanded the Emperor's Forces, which bespoke in them

The Admiral advises the Spanish General to retire with his forces.

them no ill liking to the Interest of the *French* : However, within two days their Army decamped, and marched to *St. Feluc*, from whence they designed for *Ostalreake* ; and our Troops, with those of the States General, returned on board the Fleet, very little obliged by the *Spanish* Officers ; for during the whole time they were on Shore, hardly one of them had an Invitation to partake of their Meat or Drink.

He accordingly retires.

The Forces were no sooner embark'd but the Fleet proceeded to the Coast of *Provence*, where they met with such violent Storms, accompany'd with Rain, Thunder and Lightning, as render'd a Continuance very hazardous, and therefore the Admiral thought it adviseable to retire down the *Streights*, and arriving in *Cadiz* Bay, the latter end of September, he appointed Sir *David Mitchell*, then Rear-Admiral of the Red, to take upon him the Command of 8 Third Rates, as many Fourths, besides small Frigats, Bomb-Vessels, and others of the *English*, and 7 *Dutch* Men of War from 74 to 50 Guns, and to employ all, or part of them, in such manner as he judged most for the Service, but to put himself under the Command of Sir *George Rooke* when he arrived, who was coming with a Squadron of Ships from *England*.

The Forces being embarked

the Fleet sails towards the Coast of Provence, but bad Weather obliges them to retire.

The Fleet arrives at Cadiz.

Sir David Mitchell left with a Squadron at Cadiz.

With

The Ad-
miral
sails for
England
with
greatest
part of
the Fleet.

With the rest of the Fleet the Admiral himself sailed for *England*, being one First Rate, seven Seconds, one Third, three Fourths, one Fifth, and three Fireships, besides *Dutch*, and arrived the beginning of *November*.

Unkind-
ness of the
Spani-
ards as
to our
Sick Men.

I cannot but take notice here of the Unkindness of the *Spaniards* at *Cadiz*; for Rear-Admiral *Mitchell* applying to the Governor that the Sick Men might be put on Shore into the Marine Hospitals, was answered, That it could not be admitted without an Order from Court, in regard they had expended much Money the last Year on that Account. A very grateful Acknowledgment for the Charge the *English* Nation, as well as *Holland*, had been at on their score: not but that (as I am inform'd) they did, by several Subsidies, enable the *Dutch* to bear, at least, part of their Expence; but as for the *English*, they had not one Penny, more than a certain quantity of Wine and Provisions, and that of no Extraordinary Value, which was equally distributed to each Ship so soon as it arrived in the Fleet.

Sir Geo.
Rooke
arrives
at Cadiz
from
England

The 16th of *October*, 1695, Sir *George Rooke* with the Ships from *England* was discovered, who, in 38 Days made his Passage to the Bay of *Cadiz*. The Character

rafter given him by his Commission was Admiral of the White, and Admiral and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships in the *Mediterranean*; and by his Instructions he was required to annoy the Enemy on all Occasions; To prevent their being furnished from these Seas with Naval Stores and Provisions; To take under his Command the Ships of War left at *Cadiz* by Admiral *Russell*; and if he received certain Advice that the *French* had passed the *Streights*, with the whole or part of their Fleet, to follow them, or detach after them such a Strength as might be proportionable to their's.

*Contents
of his In-
structions.*

The 21st of *November*, 1695, he called a Council of War, where was present himself, Rear-Admiral *Mitchell*, Rear-Admiral *Nevil*, and his First Captain, Captain *Bokenham*. They consider'd how the Ships bound to *Turkey* might most properly be convoy'd thither, and determined that their Guard should consist of four Ships of War, two for *Smirna* and two for *Scanderoon*, and that they should be accompanied with a Squadron of four or five more, and two Fireships, as far as *Cape Matapan*, or higher, if it should be judg'd reasonable: That then the Squadron should return, and in their way touch

*A Council of War
agree how
to send up
the Tur-
key Con-
voy.*

at *Algiers*, after that cross over to *Allicant*. and so along the Coast of *Spain*, unless they had Advice that the *French* had a stronger Force abroad.

*The Fleet
very Sick-
ly.*

The Fleet at this time was very Sickly, and with great difficulty the *Spaniards* were at last prevailed with to permit 150 Men to be lodg'd in the Hospitals at *Cadiz*; nor was that granted, but upon Condition that we should find Beds, Medicines, and Refreshments.

*We had
not force
to opp^s
the En-
emy.*

Our Force united was not sufficient to oppose the Enemy, and therefore all that the Admiral could do was to protect the Trade, till such time as the additional Strength expected from *England* joined him; and he was convinced by all Advices, that the *French* were making great dispatch for an early Campaign; for which reason he called the Flag Officers together, to consider what might best be done, who (both *English* and *Dutch*) agreed, That since there was but 30 Ships of the Line of Battel (not above half the Number 'twas believed the *French* would come out with) they could not be able to impede their passage through the *Streights*, and therefore not reasonable to put to Sea and lie in their way; but nevertheless to keep out Cruizers for Intelligence.

*A Coun-
cil of War
agreed not
to go to
Sea.*

This

This Council of War was held the 19th of *January*, 1695, and fresh Intelligence occasion'd another the 23d following, who found no reason to alter their Resolutions: But lest the *French* Fleet should appear at *Cadiz* before the Reinforcement from *England* arrived, it was agreed, That the Ships should be removed within *Pontall* Castles, and be formed within three Lines as follows; The First (to consist of the largest *English* Ships) to lie from *Pontall*, athwart the Chanel, to the Creek's Mouth called *Truckadero*, next within the *North* Castle: The Second (to be composed of the smallest *English* and *Dutch* Ships) along the Shoal on the South side of the Harbour: And the Third (to be of the biggest *Dutch* Ships) to begin from the upper end of the Second Line, and to tend away athwart the Chanel to the Mouth of the upper Creek that goes to *Port Real*; and the small Frigats, Bomb-Vessels, and Fire-ships, were to be posted to the best Advantage, as the Wind, and circumstances of Service should present. This indeed was all that could be done under their then Circumstances; for the Ships, generally speaking, were not above half Mann'd, and those of the *Dutch* were so very foul, that had they met

Another Council resolve to retire within Pontall Castles for their Security.

met the Enemy at Sea, and been over-power'd, they would in all probability have been a Prey to them.

Vice-Admiral Mitchell sent to Lagos Bay in search of some French Ships.

Things being at this pass, and our Fleet in a manner block'd up at *Cadiz*, an Account comes from the Vice-Roy of *Andalusia*, That he had notice by Express from *Portugal*, of five *French* Ships in *Lagos Bay*, from 70 to 80 Guns; and thereupon Rear-Admiral *Mitchell*, with eight clean Ships, and two Fireships, was sent in quest of them, but meeting contrary Winds he was soon constrain'd to bear up.

The Admiral receives Orders to come for England conditionally.

The Admiral considering the weakness of the Force with him, and how strong the Enemy did intend to come forth, did, about the middle of *February*, send home a Frigate for Instructions how he should proceed: But before she returned he received Orders from His Majesty, dated the 27th of *January*, 1695, to repair to *England*, unless he had good Intelligence that the *French* did not design to fit out their Fleet from *Thoulon* early in the Spring, or that they did intend to set out with no greater a Number than he could be able to oppose, with the Strength he had with him; in which case he was to remain in the *Streights*, and to follow his former Instructions.

These

These Orders occasioned a Council of War, but it was determin'd to repair to *England*, so soon as the Naval Stores could be taken on board: And in case the *French* pass'd the *Streights* before that could be effected, it was agreed to follow them immediately, and to leave a proper Convoy to bring home the Storeships. But to amuse the *French*, it was pretended that the Fleet, and the greatest part of the Stores, was removed to *Port Mahone*, though it was impossible to keep our real Intention long private; for several Letters there were which gave an Account, that the Ships design'd from *England* were stopp'd, and that it was expected our Fleet would be called home: Nor was it indeed adviseable to continue longer in those Parts, for if the intended Re-inforcement had timely arriv'd, our Strength would, even then, have been very much inferior to that of the Enemy.

About the middle of *March* Sir George put to Sea; but when he had beat it to and fro five Days, in very dirty Weather, wherein several Masts were sprung, Sails blown away, and the great Ships much shaken, he was constrain'd to return to *Cadiz*; and very lucky it was he did so, for had he kept the Sea, the tempestuous Weather, which soon af-

A Council of War resolves thereupon to come home, but to pretend they were going to Port Mahone.

The Fleet forced back to Cadiz

*Damages
suffered
by the
Storm.*

ter happened, might have exposed the Fleet to greatest hazard. It begun and continued with such Extremity, that several of the biggest *Dutch* Ships, and of our *English* Merchant Ships, were forced from their Anchors, even in the Bay; several Ships were lost upon the Coast, among which were three belonging to the States General, one of them named the *St. Peter*, of 44 Guns, between *Cadiz* and *Cape Traflegar*.

*The Fleet
arrives
in Eng-
land.*

But the Weather was no sooner moderate, than he sailed again from *Cadiz*, and arrived in the *English* Chanel the 22d of *April*, 1696; where I shall leave him, till such time as I have given some Account of what pass'd at Home, and in other parts Abroad, from the time that *Sir Cloudestly Shovell* had finished his Expedition against *Diepe*, *Calais*, and other of the Enemy's Ports, to this of *Sir George Rooke's* returning to *England*; believing that it would tend more to the Reader's Satisfaction, to have the foregoing Account of Affairs in the *Streights* entire, because its interfering with other Things that happened elsewhere, within that time, might make a Confusion, necessary to be avoided.

There

There being a considerable Number of Ships got together at *Spithead*, the Lord *Berkeley* was ordered thither to take the Command of them, and arriving there the middle of *June*, his Lordship called a Council of War, who agreed to attempt *St. Malo's*, if Pilots could be had to carry the Ships near the *Quince Rock*, and the Frigots and Bomb-Vessels within it. But to render this Undertaking the more successful, there were wanting small Frigats to secure the Bomb-Vessels, and 4 or 500 Soldiers, to put on board them and the Well-Boats; and if two Machines Vessels could be had, it was thought they might have been serviceable against the *Quince Rock*, if there was a possibility of doing good with them any where.

Although the Council of War had no extraordinary prospect of Success against *St. Malo*, yet they pitch'd upon that Attempt first, believing that the very Alarm might oblige the Enemy to make such Preparations, as would put them to no small Expence and Inconvenience: But yet they were of Opinion, That if the *French* should find them imbayed at *St. Malo* with a greater Force, it would infinitely expose them; and therefore, since there were not together above six *English* Ships of

Lord
B. kley
sent to
Command
at Spit-
head.

A Council
of War
agree to
attempt
St. Malo.

the Line of Battel, they desired that other of the great Ships might be forthwith sent to the *Downes* to join them.

The
Dutch
Admiral
ordered
by the
King to
a temp.
Dunkirk
first.

The sepa-
rate At-
tempts of
Dunkirk
and St.
Malo
consider'd.

Agreed to
Attempts
St. Malo.

Soon after this, Admiral *Almonde* acquainted the Lord *Berkeley*, That tho he had Orders to act under his Command, and to attempt what Places should be judged reasonable by a Council of War, yet the King had given him positive Orders, to try what might be done at *Dunkirk* first. This was communicated to the Lords of the Admiralty, and by them to the Lords Justices, in His Majesty's absence, by whose Command another Council of

War was called, to consider whether the separate Attempts designed to be made on *St. Malo* and *Dunkirk*, might not be undertaken at the same time, by the Means of such mutual Assistance as the *English* and *Dutch* could give each other: And according to what should be determined his Lordship was to act.

It was hereupon resolved to attempt *St. Malo's*; for as to *Dunkirk*, it was not thought convenient to do any thing there, till the Machines, and other things preparing by Mr. *Meesters*, were ready; and the *Dutch* would not hear of acting separately.

Although

Although his Lordship had but one small Frigate of the *English* with him (which Ships were more necessary on such Occasions than bigger) he was unwilling to lose time, and therefore sailed, and got Westward of *Portland* the 23d of *June*; but meeting with bad Weather, he was obliged to return to *St. Hellens*, and the Well-boats (appointed for landing Men) were so very leaky, that 'twas with much difficulty they were brought in.

However, the Squadron arrived before *St. Malo*, and anchored on the 4th of *July*, about 10 in the Morning, in 20 Fathom Water, the *Quince* Rock bearing S.E. by S, near five Miles distant, and *Cape Farrel* W. S. W, three Leagues and a half, and *Concall* Point E. by S, three Leagues. At Noon the Signal was made for the Captains of the Bomb-Vessels; and about two Hours after the Frigats, Bombs, and Well-Boats, under Command of Captain *Benbow*, together with some Frigats and Bombs of the *Dutch*, stood close in, and five of the Bomb-Vessels play'd on the *Quince* Rock till near Eight, but with little Success.

The Squadron arrived at St. Malo.

About Four the next Morning the Squadron weigh'd, and stood nearer in, and a Signal was made for the Frigats

*The At-
tempt on,
and
Bombing
St. Malo.*

and Bomb-Vessels to go as close in towards the Town, as 'twas possible; by doing whereof they soon obliged the Gallies and Guard-Boats to retreat. At half an Hour past Five the Squadron anchored in 18 fathom Water, the *Quince* Rock bearing S. by E, distant about a League; and at Eight the *Charles* Fireship, Commanded by Captain *Durley*, and one of the *Dutch*, were order'd to run in against the aforesaid Rock, and placing themselves to Windward of it, they so much annoyed the Enemy, that they forbore firing; and immediately upon the blowing up of those Ships, the Fort took fire, and burnt two Hours. About Nine a Clock the Squadron and Bomb-Vessels got in somewhat nearer, and the latter play'd with that Success, that at Four in the Afternoon a great Fire broke out in the West part of the Town, which burnt very furiously till about Seven at Night; and as it may be modestly computed that 900 Bombs and Carcasses were thrown into it, so will I not trouble the Reader with the Expence, not only of the Bombs themselves, but the Vessels also wherein the Mortars were plac'd, any otherwise, than by taking notice it was very considerable.

During

During the whole time of this Action, the *French* fired from the *Quince* Rock, the Great and Little *Bee*, Fort *Royal*, and Point *D'ambour*; and at last the Ammunition which the Bomb-Vessels carried in with them being spent, a Signal was made, between 7 and 8 at Night, to call them off, and one of them, which had received much damage, was sunk, to prevent her falling into the Enemy's hands: But before I end my Account of this Attempt, suffer me to inform you, in what manner the Council of War had determined the Place should be attack'd; which was as follows;

1. That the six *Dutch* Bomb-Vessels, and three *English*, should batter the *Quince* Rock, and the Fort called *D'ambour*, five whereof were to attack the former, and four the other.
2. The other Nine Bomb-Vessels were, at the same time, to batter the Town, and to be supported by several *English* and *Dutch* Frigats, and other small Vessels: And so many Boats as could be spared, were to go in with small Anchors and Hawfers, to tow the Bomb-Vessels and Frigats, if there should be occasion.
3. Two

3. Two *Dutch Ships* were to cruize W. N. W. of the Squadron, or off of *Cape Farrell*, and all the rest to lie as near as conveniently they could.

*The Town
of Gran-
ville de-
stroy'd.*

*A Feint
made of
going to
Havre
deGrace.*

In the next place it was resolv'd to proceed to *Granville*, with eight Frigats and as many Bomb-Vessels, and that the Squadron should stay at *St. Malo* a Day or two, and then repair to, and remain at *Guernsey*. They met not with much difficulty in destroying that Place, (which was a fair large Town) even without the loss of a Man, and joining the Squadron on the 9th, a Feint was made of going to *Havre de Grace*, thereby to amuse the Enemy; but in the Evening they bore away for *Portsmouth*, to fit the Bomb-Vessels, and get all Things ready to attack *Dunkirk*.

His Lordship propos'd to the Lords of the Admiralty, That the great Ships at *Spithead* might accompany him, because the Season of the Year was very proper, and that the Draught of Water between them and the Ships he had with him, was not above a Foot difference; besides their Countenance was necessary, and their Boats would have afforded considerable Assistance.

The Squadron being come to the *Downes*, his Lordship received Orders there to take on Board 400 Land-Soldiers; but neither Mr. *Meefters* nor his Pilots were then to be found. Soon after he came, and a Council of War being held, where he was present, it was resolved to attempt *Dunkirk* in the manner following, viz.

The Squadron arrives in the Downes.

1. To begin with Bombarding the *Rise Bank*, and Wooden Forts, with 6 or 8 Bomb-Vessels, which were to cease firing, so soon as the Frigats and Machines came near the Forts. *The Manner agreed on to attempt Dunkirk.*
2. Four *English* Frigats were first to go in, with *Dutch* Pilots, and to carry on two Fireships, and two Machines, to be laid against the Wooden Forts: And these were to be supported by four Ships of the States General, of about 50 Guns each, which were to Anchor against the said Forts, and batter them; and three small *Dutch* Frigats, one *English* Brigantine, and an Advice-Boat, were to go near in, with the Fireships and Machines, in order to take up their Boats, when the Men had set them on fire.

3. At

3. At the same time two *English* Frigats, two Ketches, and two Fireships, were to be sent on the back of the *Brake*, to disperse the Enemy's small Craft; and two Machines, and two Fireships, to burn against the *Rise Bank*, with a Brigantine, and four Well-Boats to bring off their Boats.
4. Two Fireships and two Machines were to be ready for a Second Attack upon the Western Wooden Fort, (if the First should fail) to be supported by an *English* Frigate, two Men of War Pinks, and a Ketch: And the rest of the *Dutch* Frigats were to lie at Anchor Westward of the *Brake*, ready for any Service.
5. All the great Ships were to lie off of *Gravelin*; for it was the Opinion of the Pilots, That no Ships, which drew above 15 or 16 Foot Water could go out at the Eastern Passage with any Safety.

And now Mr. *Meefters* informing the Council of War, that he had every thing ready, it was resolved to sail the next Morning, as they did: But it blowing fresh, the small Craft were dispersed; however the Squadron continued

tinued on the *French* Coast, and Orders were sent to those that were absent to repair to the Rendezvous, which was *Gravelin* Pits, and Mr. *Meesters* was particularly summoned thither, who had thought fit to retire to the *Downes*; but he represented it to be dangerous on the *French* Coast with a N.W. Wind; however positive Orders being sent to him to join the Squadron, he took Courage, and did the same the 29th of *July*, 1666, and then, the Weather being fair, it was determined to make the Attack the next Day, or so soon as 'twas possible: So that on the First of *August*, early in the Morning, the Bomb-<sup>The At-
tack be-
gun at</sup> Vessels got under Sail, and stood in to ^{Dun-} Bombard the Wooden Forts and the ^{kirk.} *Rise Bank*. About Nine they were all placed, and began to throw their Bombs very briskly, and the Frigats at the same time went in to protect them from the Enemy's small Craft, of which they had great Numbers, and many of their Half Gallies and Boats came out of the Pier Heads, and lay under the Cannon of the *Rise Bank*. About One a Clock the Frigats, Brigantines, Well-Boats, &c, that were appointed to go in with the Fireships and Machines, to burn upon the Pier Heads, and *Rise Bank*, and to take up their Boats, weighed and went pretty

Mr. Meesters's
Smoak-Ships un-
successful,
and in-
deed of
no use.

pretty near in, plying to and fro within Shot of the Enemy's Forts and Gallies; and about Two a Clock there was sent in four Smoak-Ships, to be burnt against the Forts, and blind them: But they had no manner of Success; for one ran on Ground, and the others were set on Fire long before they came to the Forts: Besides, their Smoak was so inconsiderable, that had they been carried nearer, it could not have much incommoded the Enemy.

The Bomb-Vessels fired till Five, at which time both they, the Frigats, Brigantines, &c, were ordered off. Several of the Shells fell into the *Rise Bank*, and upon the Pier Heads, and three of the Enemy's Half Gallies were sunk: But they had in all Places made such great Preparations for their Defence, with Boats, Bombs, Chains, Piles, and Puntons with Guns upon them, as rendered this Attempt altogether impracticable.

In this manner ended an Expedition, that for some Years past had been designed against this important Port: And considering the ill Success, and that the Simple Machines (as Mr. Meesters acknowledged) would be of little use without Smoak-Ships, (as indeed none of them could have been, either single
or

or together) a Council of War resolved to sail for *Calais*, where, at another Consultation, it was agreed, That since Mr. *Meesters* had thought fit to retire with all his Machines the Night before, nothing should be attempted till he returned pursuant to the Orders that were sent him, but that when they arrived, all the Boats, and the small Frigats, should be sent in to support them, which Boats were to be commanded by a Captain of each Nation, and the *English* to go Westward, and the *Dutch* Eastward of the Vessels that were to burn, or blow up, against the Fort: But Mr. *Meesters* declining this Second Attempt, the whole Affair ended, tho' it afterwards occasioned some Examinations before the Council, upon Complaints exhibited against him by my Lord *Berkeley*, and by Mr. *Meesters*, against the Conduct of the Sea-Officers.

A Council of War resolve to sail to Calais.

Mr. Meesters declined a Second Attempt with his Machines, &c.

Not long after, according to what was agreed at a Council of War, an Attempt was made on *Calais* in the manner following: There was a new Wooden Fort at the entrance of the Pier Heads, with 14 heavy Cannon, and several other Batteries, to the West, which were great Obstacles to the Undertaking; wherefore it was resolved to attack, and endeavour to burn, the said Wooden

The Manner of our Attacking Calais.

Wooden Fort in the Night; for which purpose Colonel *Richards* was not only ordered to fill up two Well-Boats with the Materials of the Blaze Fireship, but a formal Attack was designed with the Boats, and then Colonel *Richards* was to begin the Bombardment of the Town. Accidents prevented the putting this in Execution till the 17th in the Morning, when Anchoring Eastward of the Town, the Bombardment began, and with such good Success, that 'twas on Fire in several Places by One a Clock, at which time the Enemy's Half Gallies came out, and stood Eastward under the Shoar, thinking thereby to annoy the Line of Bomb-Vessels; but the small Ships of War, and Brigantines, standing in, put them in so great confusion, that with much ado they regained the Pier Heads; and after this they gave us no other Disturbance, than with their Cannon and Mortars from their several Works. The Bombardment continued till Five at Night, in which time was fired, from the *English* Vessels, about 600 Shells; and in the whole Action our Loss was very inconsiderable.

It now follows, that I relate what pass'd in the *West-Indies* under Command of Captain *Robert Wilmot*, who was appointed Commander in Chief of a Squadron of Ships, which was composed of one Third Rate, three Fourths, one Fifth, and two Fireships, and received Orders the 14th of January, 1694, to proceed from *Plimouth*, with 12 Storeships appointed to transport Soldiers, Stores and Provisions, and to make the best of his way towards *America*, where he was to take under his Command two Fourth Rates, and a Fifth.

It was thought necessary to keep the Service private on which he was designed, even to himself, till such time as he got out to Sea, and therefore the General Instructions, by which he was to govern himself in the *West-Indies*, were sealed up, with positive Orders to him not to open them, till such time as he came into the Latitude of 40 Degrees, and then to do it in the presence of the Commander in Chief of the Land-Forces.

By the said Instructions he was directed,

Contents
of the
said Ge-
neral In-
structions.

1. **T**O sail to *Jamaica*.
2. **T**O consider with the Governor of that Island, and a Council of War, what might be done against the Enemy; and, if he should think it fit, he was ordered to proceed to *Petit Guavas*, or the Coast of *Hispaniola*, according to such Informations as could be got of the Posture of the Enemy, and to take with him such of the Land-Soldiers, and of the Militia of *Jamaica*, as the Governor should appoint.
3. To order some of his Squadron to cruize off of *Petit Guavas*, and by all other Ways to intercept Supplies to the *French* from *Europe*, or any of the Windward Islands.
4. Upon landing the Troops at *Petit Guavas*, or on the Coast of *Hispaniola*, (if it should be thought proper to do the same at a Council of War) he was to use his utmost Endeavours to reduce to Their Majesties Obedience the Forts, &c. belonging to the *French*, and to destroy their Sugar Works, Engines, and Plantations.
5. If *Petit Guavas* could be taken by our Forces, he was to dispose Matters so with his Squadron, as that Possession might be kept of it.

6. To

6. To give notice to the Commander in Chief of the Island of *Hispaniola*, or City of *St. Domingo*, of his Arrival near that Coast, and to desire his Assistance, by Shipping, and the Conjunction of the Forces or Militia there, for destroying the Enemy on that and the adjacent Islands; to which end the said Governor had received Instructions from the King of *Spain* his Master.
7. But in case, by the readiness of the Preparations at *Hispaniola*, or Advices from the Governor of *Jamaica*, it should be judged Adviseable at a Council of War, to attack the *French* before his going to *Jamaica*, he was to do it.
8. If he gain'd Intelligence at his coming to *Jamaica*, or before his Arrival there, that the *French* were possessed of that Island, he was to endeavour to recover it, either by a Diversion, or otherwise, as a Council of War should judge most proper.
9. To hold Councils of War as oft as there should be occasion, to consist of the Lieutenant Governor of *Jamaica*, himself, the rest of the Sea Captains, and of the Colonel, Major, and Captains of the Regiment, when these

Persons should be on the Place: And the Governor was to preside, if present, otherwise himself; and in his Absence, and that of the Governors of *Jamaica*, the Colonel, or Commander in Chief of the Regiment.

10. If the Councils of War were held at *Jamaica*, there was to be added thereunto the Chief Officers of the Militia, not exceeding Six; but yet in no other case, than when the Matters to be debated should relate to the Defence of the Island. But the Governor was not to meddle with the Discipline of the Squadron; nor was the Commadore to send any of the Ships to Cruize remote from the Island, without the Consent of the Governor and Council, if it might be conveniently had.
11. The Spoil His Majesty gave between Himself, the Officers, Seamen, Soldiers, and Militia, except Guns, Ammunition, and Naval Stores, according to the Distribution which will be hereafter expressed.
12. After he had done his utmost to Annoy the Enemy, and for Security of the Island, and that he had stay'd thereabouts two or three Months, and no longer, unless a Council of War judg'd it absolutely necessary
for

for some Especial Service, he was to return to *England*, and to leave five Fourth Rates, and one of the Sixth, for the Guard of the Island: But in his Passage (if the Season of the Year was not too far advanced) he was to sail to the *French* Parts of *Newfoundland*, and endeavour to destroy their's, and protect our Fishery, and after that to do the like to the *French* Vessels on the Bank.

Lastly, And since the Success of this Expedition depended very much upon the good Agreement between him and the Commander in Chief of the Land-Forces, (which was, indeed, not only in this Case, but many others, found a very difficult thing) he was enjoined to take care, That no unnecessary Scruples or Difficulties did arise on that Account,

The Distribution of the Prizes and Booty that should be taken in the West Indies.

- Distribu-
tion of
Prizes
and Boo-
ty.*
- I. **A**LL Prizes taken at Sea were to be distributed according to an Act of Parliament in that behalf: And of all the Booty at Land, a Third Part was to be set aside for the Lieutenant Governor of Jamaica, when Commander in Chief on any Expedition, or to the Commander in Chief for the time being; The other two Thirds to be distributed among the Officers and Soldiers, as will be hereafter more particularly expressed.
 - II. His Majesty's Part of all Prizes at Sea was to be divided among the Seamen only, and the Booty at Land to be divided among the Land-Men only.
 - III. But when Land-Men happened to be commanded on Board upon any Expedition; or, if in their Passage to the *West-Indies*, the
Trans-

Transport Ships should be Engaged, and a Prize taken, the Land-Men were to be considered as Seamen, and their Officers on Board to receive a Share according to their Pay. And in like manner the Seamen were to be considered in Service on Shoar.

IV. That of all Booty, or Prizes, taken in Service on Shoar, wherein the Commander in Chief of the Squadron for the time being should assist with 400 Seamen, or more, the said Commander in Chief was to have the Share allotted to a Colonel, and the Officers appointed by him to Command those Men, to be considered as Land-Officers.

V. No Officer of the Militia was to be considered as a Colonel, that did Command less than 500 Men: Nor as a Captain, if less in his Company than 50, unless such Regiment, or Company, should, after their proceeding on the Expedition, happen to be reduced by Sickness, or Accidents of War.

Two Thirds of the Booty taken
at Land was to be thus divided.

To Field and Staff Officers.

	<i>Shares.</i>
Colonel, as Colonel —————	18
Lieutenant Colonel, as Lieutenant } Colonel ————— }	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Major, as Major —————	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Captain —————	10
Adjutant —————	6
Chyrurgeon —————	6
Chyrurgeon's Mates—2, 4 Shares } each ————— }	8
Quarter Master —————	6
	<hr/>
Total	72
	<hr/>

One Company.

Captain —————	12
Two Lieutenants, each 6 Shares—	12
Ensign —————	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Six Serjeants —————	12
Six Corporals —————	9
Two Drummers —————	3
Two hundred private Men —————	200
	<hr/>
	252 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Five

	Shares.
Five Companies more, consisting of the like Number —————	} 1262 $\frac{1}{2}$
The Commissary of Stores and Provisions, Paymaster of the Forces, Commissary of the Mu- sters, and Judge Advocate —	
	12
	<hr/>
Total	1599

To the Officers of the Ordnance.

Ensign —————	15
Master Gunner —————	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gunner's Mate —————	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Twelve Gunners, each 3 Shares—	36
Firemaster —————	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Six Bombardiers, each 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ Shares--	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Master Carpenter —————	6
Three Mates, each 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ Shares—	11
Chyrurgeon —————	6
	<hr/>
	116
	1599
	<hr/>
In all	1715
	<hr/>

Two Thirds of the King's Part of
the Prizes at Sea were to be
divided after this manner, *viz.*

To the Captain — 3 Eights.

Lieutenant }
& Master- } 1 Eight.

Boatswain- }

Gunner.

Purser.

Carpenter.

Master's } 1.

Mate.

Chyrur- }
geon.

Chaplain-- }

Midship- }
men —

Carpenter's
Mates.

Boatswains
Mates.

Gunner's }
Mates. } 1 Eight.

Corporals.

Yeomen of
the Sheets.

Coxwain.

Quarter-

Masters— }

To be di-
vided e-
qually
amongst
them.

To the Doctor's		
Mates.		
Chirur-		
geon's		
Mates.	} 1 Eight.	
Yeomen of		
the Pow-		
der-Room		
Trumpeter.		
Quarter-		
Gunner.		
Carpenter's		
Crew.		
Steward.		
Cook.		
Armourer.		
Steward's		
Mate.	} 2 Eights.	
Gunsmith.		
Swabber.		
Ordinary		
Trum-		
peter.		
Barber.		
Able Sea-		
men —		

To be di-
vided e-
qually
amongst
them.

Lastly, Such Officers, Soldiers, and Sea-
men, as should happen to receive
Wounds in any Action where a Booty
or Prize was taken, were to have a
double Share, in Consideration of the
said Wounds, Pur-

Captain
Wilmot
sails from
Plimouth,
and ar-
rives at
Hispani-
ola.

Pursuant to these Instructions, Cap-
tain *Wilmot* sailed from *Plimouth*, and
arriving in the old Road of *St. Christo-*
phers, one of the Leeward Islands, de-
parted from thence the 28th of *March*,
1694, for the Island of *Savona*, which
lies at the Eastermost-end of *Hispaniola*,
intending if the Governor of *St. Do-*
mingo was ready to march to *Porta Paix*,
to sail on the West side of the Island,
and assault it by Sea, which he could
not have been able to do, had he gone
down to *St. Domingo*, or on the South side,
because it would have been a great hin-
derance to the Transport Ships, which
sailed very ill, and could not so well
keep a Wind.

The French
had sever-
al Pri-
vateers
from
Guarda-
lupe and
Marti-
nico.

The *French* at this time had 19 Pri-
vateers out of *Guardalupe*, and *Martinico*,
and three Ships of War, one of 44
Guns, another of 40, and a third, a
small *Dutch* Ship which they had taken
at *Camoret Bay*, and those Privateers
were chiefly supported by such Mer-
chant Ships and Vessels of ours as
they frequently took, loaden with Pro-
visions for the Islands: Besides, the
French General had notice of his coming,
and daily expected him at *Hispaniola*,
where they had muster'd all their Strength
together, notwithstanding the great Care
taken at home for keeping the Expedi-
tion private.

When

When the Squadron arrived at *Savanna*, the Commadore met with a Letter from the Governor of *St. Domingo*, letting him know, That if he would come there he should be assisted in attempting the Enemy on that Coast; upon which he sailed with three of his Ships, and two Fireships, and sent the Transports with the remainder of the Squadron to the Gulph of *Samina*, on the North side of the Island.

The Squadron proceeds to St. Domingo.

When he landed, he desired the Assistance of the President of *St. Domingo*, and deliver'd to him the King of *Spain's* Letters; but although he made at first a shew of Readiness to comply therewith, yet (like a right *Spaniard*) he soon rais'd insignificant Scruples, by which twelve Days time was lost. Then indeed it was agreed, that he should forthwith march with 1700 of his Men, and 150 *English*, to *Machaneel Bay*, on the North side of the Island, and that the Squadron should meet him there.

Accordingly the Squadron sailed to *Cape François*, which was the very Windermost Settlement the *French* had; and when the Commadore had put on Shore the rest of the *English* Forces within three Leagues of the Cape, he sailed directly within Gun-shot of the Fort, from whence they fired very warmly

They arrive at Cape François, and are fired upon from the French Fort.

at our Ships, and in some measure disabled one of them, the *Swan*.

*Resolution
about at-
tacking
the Town
and Fort.*

It was concluded, that so soon as the Soldiers could march to one end of the Town, the Ships should batter the Fort, whereon was mounted 40 Guns, and that the Seamen should assault the Back of it, the Ground there being higher than the Fort it self. In order to this a convenient Place was sought for to land at, but were repulsed : However, the next Evening they went with a greater Strength, and the Enemy thinking that we did then intend to Land, blew up the Fort and burnt the Town, laying Trains of Powder to the Houses where any Plunder was, which had like to have done much Mischief to our Men.

*The
French
destroy
them
both.*

*Resolution
of march-
ing to
Porta
Paix not
execut'd
by the Co-
lonel of the
Forces.*

The next Day the Commadore sent to the *Spanish* General, to know when he could be ready to go to *Porta Paix*, and upon his Answer, and a Consultation, it was agreed that the Colonel who Commanded the Forces, should march thither with 300 *English*, in company of the *Spanish* Forces, it being (as they said) about 14 Leagues off. But either the said Colonel thought it not proper to undertake this Affair, or for some other Reasons, it was laid aside, and the Men straggled up and down

down the Country for Plunder, by which means several of them were lost.

The Commadore not hearing from the Forces since they marched from Cape *François*, called a Council of War, and proposed the Landing 400 Seamen, to see if they could gain Communication with them; for he had reason to doubt that they were in hazard. Accordingly such a Number of Men was landed, about five Miles Eastward of *Porta Paix*; and though they received some Opposition by an Ambuscade, yet they burnt and destroyed the Enemy's Plantations to the very Fort it self, to which the *French* retired: But not hearing any thing of our Soldiers, they came on board the Ships at Night.

Soon after this, the Commadore had notice that the Army had straggled up near *Porta Paix*, whereupon he landed again the like Number of Seamen as before, in order to join them, and the next Day put on shore the Cannon and Mortars; but little haste was made in mounting them by those whose proper Business it was.

It was now resolved, that the Squadron should sail Westward of *Porta Paix*, where there was a commodious Hill to annoy the Enemy, and it was much

The Commadore lands Seamen to sustain the Army, & they fall into an Ambuscade.

Some Cannon and Mortars put on shore, but a great delay in mounting them.

*The in-
ward Fort
of Porta
Paix bat-
tered
down.*

*The
French
sally out
but are
beaten.*

*The Fort
taken.*

*The Fort
demolish-
ed, and
the Squa-
dron sails
from
thence to
Jamaica
and so to
Eng-
and.*

much nearer than the first intended Battery; and there 10 pieces of Cannon were mounted, which so much gauled them, that in few Days part of the inward Fort was beaten down, and many People, who retired thither, were killed.

The 3d of July, 1695, between the Hours of Twelve and One, the *French* sallied out, with about 300 Whites, and 200 Negroes, well-armed; but the Commadore having notice thereof by a Negro, detached 150 Men to receive them, and lay ready; with the rest, to join them upon occasion; by which means many were killed, especially their Commanding Officers, and several taken Prisoners. After this Defeat our Forces immediately took possession of the Fort, wherein they found 80 Cannon mounted, and good store of Powder and Shot.

The Colonel of the Land Forces was soon after desired to send his Sick Men to *Jamaica*, and to keep those that were in Health at this Place, to assist in the intended Service at *Logan*, and *Petit-Guazas*; but neither he or the *Spanish* General thought it adviseable: Wherefore the Commadore demolished the Fort, and carried off the Guns and Stores, and then sailed to *Jamaica*, where

where having refitted the Ships, and put all things into the best Order he could, he took his departure for *England* the 3d Day of *September*, leaving behind him the *Reserve*, *Hampshire*, *Ruby*, and *Swan*, the last to bring home some Merchant Ships when loaden, and the three first (being Fourth Rates) to guard *Jamaica* till further Order; but such Difficulties they met with in their Passage, not only by reason of the bad Weather, but the violent and uncommon Distemper that seized the Men, that it was almost next to a Miracle the Ships got home; and Captain *Wilmot* the Commadore, and a great Number of the Officers, died in the Passage, and one of the 4th Rates, for want of Men to trim her Sails, ran on Ground, and was lost on the Shoals of *Cape Florida*.

Thus ended the Expeditions at Sea, both at Home and Abroad, this Year, and no more Ships being kept out than what were absolutely necessary for guarding the Coast, and Convoys for the Trade, the rest were ordered to the several Ports, that so they might be timely fitted for the next Year's Service: But His Majesty receiving Advice, that the *French* did intend to take this

The French intending to make a Descent from Dunkirk, &c. they are prevented by our speedy Preparations. Opportunity to embark an Army from *Calais*, *Dunkirk*, and the Ports thereabouts and therewith to make a Descent on *England*, signify'd his Pleasure to the Lords of the Admiralty, by Admiral *Russell*, the 21st of *February*, 1695, That all the Ships in the River of *Thames* and *Medway*, as well as those at the *Nore*, *Spithead*, *Plimonth*, and elsewhere, which could be got ready, should be ordered to repair immediately to the *Downes* : And for the better enabling them so to do, Orders were given to those at *Portsmouth* and *Plimonth* to Man themselves from the Merchant Ships, and to bring as many more as they could conveniently receive to other Ships in want. The Civil Magistrates of *Kent*, and about *Portsmouth*, were also ordered to secure all straggling Seamen, and to send them to the Commissioners residing nearest to the Place where they should meet with them; and the Commander in Chief in the River *Medway* was likewise directed to hasten all the Ships from thence, and the *Nore*, to the *Downes*, and the Master-Attendant on Float, to do the like to all Ships of War, Fireships, and other Vessels, fitting out in the River. All the Boats belonging to the Ships at the *Nore* and *Blackstake*s, were ordered to press

press Watermen, Bargemen, Lightermen, and others working on the River *Medway*: Besides which, general Orders were issued to press all without distinction, except such as were employed on necessary Services of the Navy, Ordnance, or Victualling; and there being an Embargo laid on all Merchant Ships, it was ordered that a third Part of the Men belonging to those Outward-bound should be taken from them, for the more speedy putting the Fleet into a Condition to prevent the Enemy's Design. Mr. *Russell* himself (after he had assisted as First Lord of the Admiralty in these Preparations) did by the King's particular Command repair immediately to the *Dornes* to command upon this Important Service, where he arrived the 24th; and tho' he found no more Ships there than one First, two Thirds, six Fourths, and two Fifth Rates, with one Fireship, a Ketch, and a Brigantime, yet such speedy Orders were issued, and so diligently were they put in execution, that he was joined in three Days following at the *Southsand's-head*, by Sir *Cloudefly Shovell*, with 13 more, besides 11 *English* and *Dutch* from *Spithead*, and the next Day his Number was encreased by 10 Ships from *Plimouth*, at which time he was

Mr. Russell by the King's particular Order commanded the Fleet appointed to oppose the Enemy.

standing *Eastward* along the *French Coast*

The 1st of *March*, 1695, there sailed from the *Downes* to join him 10 more, great and small. In fine, notwithstanding there was not in the *Downes* on the 24th of *February* above 11 Ships, and that all the rest of the Ships in Pay were at Places distant one from the other, and most of them but very poorly Mann'd, yet by the 28th of that Month, the Admiral had with him off of *Gravelin*, one First, 12 Third, 24 Fourths, and three Fifth Rates, besides Fireships of the *English*; and 12 Ships of War of the *Dutch*, and two of their Fireships; and in few Days after they were augmented to near Fourscore sail, reckoning into the Number small Sixth Rates, Brigantines, &c; and with them there were the several Flag Officers following, viz. the Admiral himself, the Lord *Berkeley* Admiral of the Blue, Sir *Cloudefly Shovell* Vice-Admiral of the Red, Mr. *Aylmer* Vice-Admiral of the Blue, and two *Dutch* Rear-Admirals.

The great Number of Ships that were in very few days got together.

The Admiral came to an Anchor off of *Gravelin* the 28th of *February*, 1695, with part of the Fleet, and the Lord *Berkeley* lay between him and *Dunkirk*. As he sailed close in with *Calais*, he perceived that Harbour so much crowded with

with all sorts of Imbarcations, that they were judged not to be less than between Three and four hundred, and they had all their Sails to the Yards. In *Flemish* Road there was about 17 Ships of War, great and small, with which they would probably in few Days have come over with the Transports; for, as some Prisoners related, they were of Opinion, that since our great Ships were gone in to refit, and those from the *Streights* not arrived, we had not any Strength at Sea; and 'tis reasonable to believe that they did design to strengthen this Convoy by other Ships from *Brest*, and the Ports of West *France*. Thirteen of these 17 Ships retired as close in with the Pier of *Dunkirk* as possibly they could, and according to the best Judgment that could be made of them, four were of about 70 Guns, three between 50 and 60, and the rest small Frigats.

Sir *Cloudestly Shovell*, with several Captains, was sent to look on them, but found that nothing could be attempted with any prospect of Success; and the *Dutch* Pilots, sent by Mr. *Meefters*, being examined, they declared, That when the Tides were mended, if the Wind was from the S. to the W. S. W, and a fresh Gale, they would venture to carry such of our Ships as drew not more Water

Many
Transport
Ships seen
at Calais.

And what
Ships of
War they
had at
Dunkirk

Impracti-
cable to
attempt
the Ships
at Dun-
kirk.

than 15 or 16 *Dutch* Feet, through *Flemish* Road, and out of the East Chanel by *Newport*, provided they did not Anchor : But if any Accidents happened, by the Ships Masts coming by the Board, or other Interruption, they were apprehensive that they might be exposed to imminent Danger.

The Pilots who came from *Newport* owned themselves ignorant of the Sands or Chanels about *Dunkirk* ; so that it being concluded there could be no attempt made there, with probability of Success, the Admiral resolved to come with the Fleet to *Dover* Road, or the *Downes*, and to leave a proper Squadron to attend the motion of the Enemy's Ships, and Cruizers in other convenient Stations ; which Squadron was put under the Command of Sir *Cloudestly Shovell*.

A Squadron left off of Dunkirk with Sir Cloudestly Shovell.

The 23d of *March*, 1695, three Bomb-Vessels join'd the Squadron, and then Sir *Cloudestly* called a Council of War, at which was present the Captains of all the Ships, as also Colonel *Richards* and Captain *Benbow*, who agreed, that it was not adviseable to Bomb *Calais* with the small Number of Mortars they had, but rather to stay till they could be augmented, and that more favourable Weather presented for such an Undertaking. The

they said for more Mortars to Bomb Calais.

The 28th, a *Sweed's* Vessel came into the *Downes* that was the Day before at *Calais*, the Master whereof said, That about five Weeks before, when off of that Port in his way to *Nants*, he went on shore to get some Water, and was there seized, and his Ship carried in, as he believed for Transporting their Forces to *England*. He added, That King *James* was at *Calais*, and went from thence soon after Admiral *Russel* came before the Place; That at *Calais*, and thereabouts, they had near 12000 Soldiers, and about 300 Vessels for Transportation, which were dispersed before his coming away, so that there was no more left in *Calais* than the Ordinary Garison, and that 150 of the small Vessels were also gone to the several Places whereto they belonged; but that neither they, himself, or other *Danes* and *Sweeds* taken up for this Service, had any recompence for their Trouble, and loss of Time.

The Master of a Swedish Vessel's Account of the intended Descent.

The 31st of this Month of *March*, Admiral *Almonde* came into the *Downes* from *Holland*, with six Ships of the Line of Battel, and two Fireships, and the next Morning several of our Ships arrived there from *Spithead*; and the Day following Sir *Cloudestly Shovell* received Orders from the Lords of the Admiralty,

Sir Clou-
desly
Shovell
ar-ives
off of
Calais,
and the
Town
Bom-
barded.

to return with all the Bomb-Vessels to the Coast of *France*, and to attempt, with them, the burning *Calais*, and the Transport Ships and Vessels there, being empower'd to take with him such of the small Frigats in the *Downes* as he should think necessary for that Service. He arrived off of *Calais* the 3d, and from that Day at Noon, till Night, about 300 Bombs and Carcasses were thrown into the Town, where, and among the Imbarcations in the Pier, many were seen to break, which probably did them considerable Damage; though nothing could be distinctly seen, but a small Vessel on fire in the Harbour, and the Town flaming in three or four Places, which was soon extinguished.

In this Action the Bomb-Vessels and Brigantines received much damage in their Rigging, and all the Mortars but two were disabled: Several of the Frigats were also wounded in their Masts and Rigging, and the Wind coming about the next Day from the S. S. E. to the S. W, and blowing very hard, it was thought convenient to return to the *Downes*, from whence Sir *Cloudesly* appointed a Squadron to keep in the *French Men of War at Dunkirk*, and received Orders on the 11th to proceed

ceed with the Fleet to *Spithead*, in Company of all the *Dutch* Ships in the *Downes*, at which time there was with him 2 First Rates, 5 Seconds, 9 Thirds, 11 Fourths, 1 Brigantine, and 7 Fire-ships, the several Ships hereafter mentioned, which were designed for the Fleet, being employ'd on particular Services by the Lords of the Admiralty.

Sir Clou-
desly
Shovel II
ordered to
Spithead
with the
Fleet.

Ships not in the Downes when
Sir Cloudesly Shovel sailed
from thence.

Rate.	Ships Names.	
3 —	<i>Berwick</i> —	} Off of Calais.
	<i>Captain.</i>	
	<i>Defiance.</i>	
	<i>Edgar.</i>	
	<i>Kent.</i>	} Of of Dun-
4 —	<i>Burlington</i> —	
3 —	<i>Burford</i> —	
	<i>Mountague.</i>	
	<i>Resolution.</i>	} kirk.
	<i>Suffolk.</i>	
6 —	<i>Lark.</i>	} Gone to Sheer-
Fireship,	<i>Firebrand</i> —	
3 —	<i>Royal Oak</i> —	} nefs for a
		} Foremast.

Rate.

<i>Rate.</i>	<i>Ships Names.</i>	
4 ———	<i>Norwich</i>	{ Gone to Portsmouth to re-fit.
	<i>Severne</i>	{ Gone to the Nore to bring Victualling-Ships to the Downes.
6 ———	<i>Greyhound</i>	{ Ordered from Shoreham to the Downes.
1 ———	<i>Britannia</i>	{ At several Places, under Orders to proceed to the Downes.
	<i>St. Andrew.</i>	
2 ———	<i>Royal Katherine.</i>	
3 ———	<i>Content.</i>	
	<i>Restauration.</i>	
4 ———	<i>Litchfield.</i>	{
	<i>Portland</i>	

*The Sick-
ness of
the Men
occasioned
by the
early fit-
ting out
the Fleet*

Here I must observe, That the early fitting out the Fleet, and the untowardness of the Weather, occasioned great Sickness among the Men, insomuch that near 500 were put on Shoar at *Deale*, and many more were in an ill Condition that remain'd on board the Ships.

*A Line
of Battel
formed.*

A Line of Battel was now formed, of all such Ships as either were with him, or that might reasonably be expected upon any pressing Occasion, which amounted

amounted in the whole to 2 First Rates, 5 Seconds, 22 Thirds, and 17 Fourths of the *English*; and of the *Dutch*, 4 of 90 or 94 Guns, 7 of 70, and 6 from 66 to 60, besides 8 *English* and 5 *Dutch* Fireships, and 5 of our small Frigats, and 7 Brigantines: Moreover there was 2 First Rates, the *Britannia* and *St. Andrew*, and a Second Rate, the *St. Michael*, that lay under Orders to proceed to him from the *Buoy of the Nore*, which Ships join'd him the 23d of *April*.

About this time there was Advice from *Ostend*, That *Du Bart* was certainly fitting out at *Dunkirk* 8 Ships of War, and 2 Fireships. The Reports of his Design were various; some said, 'twas to join the main Fleet; others, to protect the Vessels from *St. Malo* and *Havre de Grace* to *Dunkirk* and *Calais*; whereas some thought, that he intended to Cruize in the North Chanel; and others had a jealousy, that he intended to attack His Majesty in his Passage to *Holland*, tho' I think there was little reason to apprehend the latter; for at the beginning of the War he did not think fit to attempt it, altho' His Majesty had with him none but foul Ships of any Strength, whereas *Du Bart* had several just come out of *Dunkirk* clean, with which he lay by for some time,

Du Bart fitting out a Squadron at *Dunkirk*.

Observations upon *Du Bart's* meeting the King in his Passage to *Holland*.

not

not much out of Gun-Shot, without daring to gain himself the Reputation of standing up, and giving our Ships one Broadside, altho' he might, at pleasure, have run round them, without exposing himself to any great Danger: But Blows being not his Business, he reserved himself, and Squadron, for some better opportunity of Advantage on Merchant Ships, or such as could make no great Resistance.

*Sir Geo.
Rooke
arrives
in the
Downes
from the
Streights
and takes
the Com-
mand of
the Fleet.*

*He ar-
rives at
Spit-
head.*

Before Sir *Cloudestly Shovell* could proceed to *Spithead* with the Fleet, Sir *George Rooke*, Admiral of the White, arrived in the *Downes* from the *Streights*, and took upon him the sole Command; and after he had dispatched such Matters as were necessary, with respect not only to the Fleet, but those Ships that he was ordered to detach therefrom on particular Services, he sailed and arrived at *Spithead* the 30th of *April*, having left some small Ships, and the Bomb-Vessels, behind, to bring after him near 1000 Men in Sick Quarters at *Deale*, *Dover*, *Sandwich*, *Ramsgate*, and other Places thereabouts.

*Orders
sent him
to proceed
into the
Sound-
ings.*

The 2d of *May*, 1696, he received Orders to proceed into the *Soundings*, which being very pressing, and the Ships that came home with him from the *Streights* in no good Condition for Ser-

Service, for that, besides other Things, they did more especially want Beer and Stores, he thought it Adviseable to call a Council of War, by whom it was determined to sail with the very first Opportunity, after the *Streights* Ships were supplied with what was absolutely necessary to enable them to keep to Sea; but that in the interim the State and Condition of the Fleet should be represented to the Lords of the Admiralty, which consisted of 6 First Rates, 8 Seconds, 22 Thirds, and 3 Fourths, of the *English*; and of the *Dutch* 16, whereof there was 3 of 90 Guns, 8 of 70 and 74, 4 of 60 and 64, and one of 50, besides the Fireships, Frigats, and small Vessels of both Nations, being in the whole of the Line of Battel but 55; and the *English* Ships, from the First to the Third Rate, did at this time want upwards of 3300 Men, of the 19500, their allowed Compliment.

A Council of War resolve to sail when the Ships could be furnished with what they wanted.

The reason of the Fleet's being reduced to so small a Number, was the other Services many of the Ships were employed on, viz.

The reason of the Fleet's being reduced to a smaller Number than designed.

Rate.	Ships Names.	
3 —	<i>Resolution</i> —	Cruizing in
	<i>Monmouth.</i>	the <i>Soun-</i>
	<i>Dunkirk.</i>	<i>ding</i> , to pro-
	<i>Content.</i>	tect the
	<i>Defiance.</i>	Trades ex-
4 —	<i>Severne.</i>	pected
Fireships,	Two —	home.
3 —	<i>Berwick</i> —	Appointed
	<i>Edgar.</i>	Convoys
	<i>Lion.</i>	for <i>Portugal</i> ,
4 —	<i>Medway.</i>	<i>Bilboa</i> , and
Fireships,	Three —	the <i>Canaries</i> .
3 —	<i>Cornwall</i> —	Ordered to
Fireships,	Two —	the <i>Nore</i> .
4 —	<i>Pembroke</i> —	Off of <i>Dun-</i>
Fireships,	Two —	<i>kirk</i> .
3 —	<i>Humber</i> —	In <i>Portsmouth</i>
	<i>Sterling-Castle</i> }	Harbour.
	<i>Elizabeth</i> —	Gone to <i>Hol-</i>
		land with
		the King.
	<i>Breda</i> —	Laid up at
		<i>Portsmouth</i> .

So that 17 *English* Ships (besides *Dutch*) were taken from the Number first appointed for the Body of the Fleet; all which were of the Line of Bat-
tel.

Sir George Rooke was, soon after his return from *Cadiz*, appointed Admiral and Commander in chief of the Fleet, and was directed to proceed therewith, and lie in such a Station as he should judge most proper, for preventing the Squadron expected from *Thoulon*, and their Convoys, getting into any Port of *France*, and according to Intelligence of their Proceedings, to remove to proper Stations, for the effectual Performance of that Service; and upon meeting them, or his being informed that they were got into any Port where they might be attacked, he was to endeavour to destroy them: But if he received certain Advice they were got into *Brest*, he was then to come with the Fleet to *Torbay*, and remain there till farther Order.

Sir Geo. Rooke ordered to lie in a Station to prevent the Thoulon Ships getting to Brest.

This was the Contents of his Instructions; but he was under no little uneasiness how to comply therewith, by reason of the great want of Men, and the small Strength of the Fleet, and therefore he called another Council of War, where it was nevertheless resolved, to proceed West 15 Leagues from *Ushant*, and that, in their Passage, some small Frigats and Brigantines should be sent for Intelligence, and particularly to discover whether the *Thoulon* Squadron

A Council of War resolve on the Station.

dron was got into *Brest*: But the Council of War thought it convenient to represent, That since the Fleet was reduced to 37 *English* Ships, and 20 *Dutch*, of the Line of Battel, they would be of less Strength than the *Thoulon* Squadron, and that of Monsieur *Nesmond's*, if join'd. However, to strengthen them all that possibly could be, he was ordered to take with him three Third Rates, one Fourth, and three of the Fireships, that were appointed for Foreign Convoys.

The Fleet off of Dartmouth. The Fleet was off of *Dartmouth* on the 8th of this Month, and there the *Oxford* join'd them, whose Captain was in the Morning informed by the Master of a *Portuguese* Ship bound to *Rotterdam*, that the 2d Instant, in the Latitude of 45 Degrees, Cape *Finister* then bearing South, distant about 40 Leagues, he met with a Fleet of *French* Men of War, being in all 40 Sail, and 34 of them from 50 to 80 Guns, as nigh as he could judge; that they were then steering away N. N. E, with the Wind at W. N. W, and that four of them were Flag-ships, viz. the Vice and Rear Admirals of the White, and Vice and Rear Admirals of the Blue.

A great want of Cruizing Frigats. The Admiral was in great want of Cruizing Frigats to gain Intelligence of the

the Enemy, insomuch that the *French* Scouts and Privateers came in and made their Observations without opposition ; and by reason of small Gales Southerly, our Fleet was kept on the Coast of *England* till the 12th.

The Night before the *Lyme* join'd him, which Ship he had left to cruize about the *Streights*, and her Captain received Advice the 2d of *April* from the *English* Consul at *Malaga*, that the *French* Fleet were seen off of *Almaria* Bay the 28th of the preceeding Month. On the 9th of *April* the said Captain was further informed that the *French* were plying Westward off of *Cape de Gat*, and that 8 of their best Sailers were got as low as *Maderill*. Three days after, by the help of a strong *Levant*, he got through the *Streights*, and lay off of *Cape Spartell* to observe their motion, and at four in the Afternoon he made four Sail coming down the *Barbary* Shoar; and they chasing him, forced him the next day into the Bay of *Cadiz*, where he had Advice the 16th, by Express from *Gibraltar*, that the *French* Fleet was at Anchor off that Place. The 21st he ply'd up to his Station off of *Cape Spartell*, and saw near 50 Sail coming down under the Land, before the Wind ; but 5 of them giving him chase, he did not

The Lime brings an Account of the French Ships coming through the Streights.

see the Body of the Fleet again till the next Morning about 10, and then they were between the Bay of *Lagos* and *Cape St. Vincent*, going away large with a prest Sail, the Wind at E. S. E.

*The Fleet
coming
off of
Ushant.*

The 14th of May, 1696, in the Morning, our Fleet came on the Coast of *Ushant*, and then a Squadron of Ships, and small Vessels, was detached under Command of Captain *Beaumont*, and sent in for Intelligence, between *Ushant* and the Main. Without any Resistance he stood fair in to *Camaret* and *Bertram* Bays, and saw as much in *Broad Sound* as 'twas possible to do without passing their Forts; there he discover'd 22 Sail, 17 or 18 of which he judg'd were Ships of the Line of Battel, and 8 or 9 of them of 3 Decks, with 4 Flags, viz, Admiral, Vice and Rear Admiral of White and Blue, and Rear-Admiral of the White, which, according to the Opinion of the Pilots, were all the Ships of Force they had there: But by the Captain of a *French* Man of War call'd the *Fondriant*, taken by Captain *Norris* the 16th of this Month, he was informed that the *Thoulon* Fleet got into *Brest* the 5th, Old Stile, and that they were 47 Ships of the Line, but that 4 others were oblig'd to return to *Thoulon*, by reason of the Damage they received

*Advice
received
of the
French
Ships be-
ing got in-
to Brest.*

ceived before they passed the *Streights*. This Prize had not been at Sea before, but was now going out to join Monsieur *Chasteau Renault's* Squadron, one of which he took Captain *Norris's* Ship to be, their Station being, as he said, about S. W. and by W, 48 Leagues from *Scilly*, and in number two three Deck'd Ships, two of 70 Guns, two of 60, and two of about 30; but by the Account given by Captain *Fitz-Patrick*, it was judged this Squadron was seen by him going into *Brest*, some whereof he had certainly engaged with, had they not retired upon discovering other Ships advancing towards him.

Upon the first account given by Captain *Beaumont* a Council of War of all the Flag-Officers was called, and since it appeared uncertain whether or no the *Thoulon* Fleet was got into *Brest*, it was resolved to continue in the appointed Rendezvous, so long as the Winds hung Easterly, in expectation of the several Ships ordered to reinforce the Fleet, and, in the mean time, to endeavour to gain further Intelligence, by taking People from the Shore, and by sending a small Frigate, and an Advice-Boat, to *Bell Isle*, to discover whether any part of the *French* Fleet was there. But upon the aforementioned

A Council of War resolve to continue in the Station.

Account, received afterwards from Captain *Fitz-Patrick*, and what was reported by some that were taken from the Shore, it was judged there was no room to doubt of the *Thoulon* Fleet, and Monsieur *Nesmond's* Squadron's being in *Brest*; so that the Flag-Officers were called together again the 18th, and they resolved to lie as near the Rendezvous as 'twas possible, so long as the Winds should be Northerly, or Easterly; but upon the first shift Southerly, or Westerly, to repair to *Torbay*, as the Lords of the Admiralty had directed, by their Orders of the 29th of the last Month.

It is afterwards determined to come to *Torbay* with the first Southerly, or Westerly Wind.

Several Dutch and English Ships join the Fleet.

The next Day Vice-Admiral *Evertsen* with 12 Dutch Men of War joined the Fleet, together with an English Fourth Rate, the *Sunderland*, and the *Fortune* Fireship, and in the Afternoon Vice-Admiral *Aylmer* did the like in the *Elizabeth*, with the *Newark*, and *Mary*, and between 30 and 40 Sail more, among which were the Bomb-Vessels and Tenders: But, according to what was determined, the Fleet came to *Torbay* the 23d, several Cruizers being Station'd between *Ushant* and the Isle of *Basse*, the *Start* and *Ushant*, and off of the *Lizard*: And at this time the whole Fleet was 115 Ships and Vessels, 67 of them

English.

the Fleet came to *Torbay*

English, and 48 *Dutch*, whereof 85 were of the Line of Battel, of which 49 were *English*, viz. 6 First Rates, 8 Second, 28 Thirds, and 7 Fourths; and 36 *Dutch*, 8 of which carried 90 Guns, 14 between 70 and 74, 11, 64, and 3 50, but several of the Ships were very Sickly, especially those that came from the *Streights*, infomuch that there wanted full 4000 Men in the *English* Ships; nor was there any great prospect of their sudden Recovery, since the little Villages thereabouts were not capable to receive many.

The 27th of May, 1696, Sir George Sir Geo Rooke received Orders to return to his Duty at the Admiralty-Board, and to leave the Command of the Fleet to the Lord Berkeley, who was appointed Admiral; but before he came on Shore, he had advice from Commissioner St. Lo at *Plimouth*, that one of our Advice-Boats, the *Mercury*, had counted, a little above *Camoret Bay*, 70 sail of *French Men of War*, all ready to sail, with four Flags flying, three whereof Blue, and one White, and in the Bay it self five small Ships more; which Account he communicated to the Lords of the Admiralty. Being come to Town, he made the following Proposal to the Duke of *Shrewsbury*, Principal

ordered to his Duty at the Admiralty-Board, and the Lord Berkeley to command the Fleet.

A Proposal made
by Sir
George
Rooke
for at-
tempting
the French
in Ca-
moret.

Secretary of State; " That the Body of
" the Fleet should lie in *Camoret* and
" *Bertram* Bays, and a Detachment be
" made to sustain the small Frigats and
" Bomb Vessels, while they went in to
" do what Mischief they could. It was
" his Opinion, That thus blocking up
" the Enemy's Fleet in their principal
" Port, insulting their Coasts, and
" burning their Towns at the same time,
" would expose them to the World;
" make them very uneasy at Home,
" and give Reputation to His Majesty's
" Arms : And he believed it might be
" done, if speedily undertaken, with
" the Assistance of some small Frigats,
" which were much wanted.

A Council
of War
think it
not pra-
cticable
to at-
tempt the
French
in Brest
Harbour.

The Lord *Berkeley* arriving with the
Fleet in *Torbay* the 3d of *June*, did im-
mediately betake himself to the Dispatch
of all things necessary. And since a
Council of War, both of the *English*
and *Dutch* Flag-Officers, did not think
it practicable to attempt the *French*
Fleet in the Harbour of *Brest*, he was
ordered to consult with them how the
Fleet might be best employed the re-
maining part of the Summer. It was
agreed by them, That if the *French* did
not disarm, it was most adviseable to
sail with the Fleet to the Coast of *France*,
for the space of 14 or 15 Days; by
which

which means, if they had not an Opportunity of destroying some of their Shipping, yet it might very much allarm them, and occasion the keeping up their Militia, and standing Forces, and so consequently weaken their Armies.

It was also agreed, That upon notice of their sending any Squadrons to molest our Trade, equal Strength should be detached to oppose them; and that when the *French* disarmed their Ships, it would be convenient to divide our Fleet, some to bombard their Towns, and others to necessary Services that called for them; but yet that the whole should be so disposed of, as that they might unite upon any immergent Occasion.

On the 16th, a Council of War was called, upon Orders from the Lords of the Admiralty, touching the Fleet's lying in *Bertram* and *Camoret* Bays, and sending a Squadron with the Bomb-Vessels to destroy some of the *French* Towns; and though it was judged that the Fleet could not ride in either of those Bays out of Bomb-shot, yet was it resolved to sail, when Weather would permit, and look thereinto, and to endeavour to destroy the Ships they might meet with there. Accordingly the Fleet turn'd it up as high as *Dartmouth*; but

A Resolution to sail to Bertram and Camoret Bays.

*8 Dutch
Lin. of
Battel
Ships or-
dered
home.*

the Tide of Ebb being spent, and it blowing hard at W. S. W, they were constrain'd to bear up for *Torbay*, and the next Day, being the 19th, the *Dutch* Admiral had Orders from His Majesty, to send to *Holland* 8 Ships of the Line of Battel.

*Advice
received
of the fir-
ting out 2
Squa-
drons at
Brest for
Monsieur
Chateau
Renault
and Nes-
mond.*

The Weather being fair, the Fleet sailed the 24th of *June*, 1696, with the Wind at N. N. W, and had the good Fortune to get out of the Chanel; and in *Broad Sound* one of our Ships took a *French* Privateer that came from *Brest* 14 Days before. The Prisoners said, That all the great Ships were up in the River; That there was about 30 sail in *Brest* Water, clean'd and going out in two Squadrons, one to be commanded by *Monsieur Chateau Renault*, and the other by *Monsieur Nesmond*; whereupon it was determined to sail with the whole Fleet to *Bell Isle*, and from thence to detach 10 Ships to bombard *St. Martins* and *D'allone*.

*The Fleet
anchors
off of Bell
Isle, and
did mis-
chief at
Groy,
and other
Places.*

The Fourth of *July*, 1696, the Fleet anchored about two Leagues from *Bell Isle*, some of our Men having been landed before at *Groy*, where they burnt most part of the Villages, and killed and brought off many Cattle, and that without any Resistance, for the People had deserted the Island. A little before
the

the Fleet came to an Anchor, all the Barges and Pinnaces were sent to *Howart*, one of the Islands call'd the *Cardinals*, where our Men landed, and brought off about 300 head of Cattle. The next Day the *Kent*, *Boyne*, and *Torbay*, two *Dutch* Ships of War, and all the Long-Boats of the Admiral's Division, were sent to *Groy*, and about 700 Soldiers and Marines being landed there, they finished what had been begun, by burning almost 20 Villages. The Boats that were employed in destroying *Howart*, were ordered on the like Service against *Hodick*; so that, upon a modest Computation, there was destroyed about 20 Boats; and 1300 Houses, and near 1600 head of black Cattle and Horses were killed. Upon the Island *Groy* there was no Fortifications, but on each of the *Cardinals* there was a Fort, with a deep Ditch and a double Wall, to which the Inhabitants, with some Soldiers, retired. This being done, the Admiral had thoughts of landing on *Bell Isle*; but since he had but 240 of Colonel *Norcott's* Men, (the rest being gone with the Bomb-Vessels) it was not thought adviseable; for the Enemy had there 25 Companies of the Regiment of *Picardy*, besides 3000 Islanders, who could carry Arms. These

The Reason why we landed not at Bell Isle.

These little Enterprizes being finished, a Council of War agreed, that the Fleet should Stay off *Bell-Isle* five Days longer, to cover the Ships at the Isle of *Rhee*, and then proceed off of *Ushant*.

*Damage
done to
St. Mar-
tins and
Ollone.*

That Squadron with the Bomb-Vessels damaged the Towns of *St. Martins* and *Ollone*; and leaving them on fire, after having expended almost 2000 Bombs and Carcasses, they joined the Fleet.

*Monsieur
Nesmond
seen at
Sea by a
Merchant
Ship.*

On the 19th, Captain *Beaumont* met with a Ship from *Lisbon* bound to the *Downes*, whose Master informed him, That four Days before he fell in with a Squadron of 9 Sail, commanded by *Monsieur Nesmond*, in the Latitude of 46 Degrees North, about 80 Leagues from the Northward Cape; That he was on board the Commadore, where he understood they had been but four Days from *Brest*, and were going off of *Cape St. Vincent* to look for the *Spanish West India* Fleet.

The Fleet being now in great want of most Species of Provisions, the Admiral desired Orders to move Eastward, lest what they had should spend faster than they could be supply'd, but more especially if the Victualling Ships expected from *Portsmouth* happen'd to be detain'd by Westerly Winds; and having made a hard shift to Victual
ten

ten Third Rates, two Fourths, and two Fireships, he put them under command of Vice-Admiral *Mitchell*, but they were forced to sail with very little Butter and Cheese; and this Squadron was to cruize in the *Soundings*, to protect the several Trades expected home.

Vice-Admiral Mitchell ordered into the Soundings with a Squadron.

So many *Dutch* Men of War were ordered from the Fleet, that there remained but 11, seven whereof were to be part of their Western Convoy; so that on this Account, and the several other Detachments that were made, the Body of the Fleet was so very inconsiderable, that when the *English* and *Dutch* Convoys came to *Torbay*, Admiral *Almonde* was forced to go with his own Ship, in company with those that were particularly appointed, to secure them into the Sea; and it was render'd yet weaker, by Sir *Cloudesly Shovell's* being ordered by the Lords of the Admiralty with five Ships to *Spithead*; wherefore the Admiral received Orders to repair with the Fleet to *Spithead*, where he arrived the 30th, with six First Rates, six Seconds, and four Thirds, together with four Fireships and some small Vessels; from whence he came to Town; but before he left *Torbay*, the *Portland* brought in a Spy-Boat of the Enemy's, whose Commander gave his

The Body of the Fleet very inconsiderable by reason of Detachments.

Lord Berkley arrives at Spithead.

Lord-

Advice of
Monsieur
Chateau
Renaults
being at
Sea.

Lordship an Account, That Monsieur *Chateau Renault* sailed from *Brest* sixteen Days before (on what Design he knew not) with 16 Men of War and two Fireships, which were Victualled for 5 Months.

An Ac-
count of
Vice-Ad-
miral Mi-
chell's
Procee-
dings in
the Soun-
dings.

And now the Service of the Main Fleet in a Body being over for this Year, it remains that I give some Account of Vice-Admiral *Mitchell's* Proceedings in the *Soundings*; who being in chase, the 16th of *August*, 1696, of three Ships that stood Eastward, which he judged to be Privateers, there happen'd on a sudden a violent Storm of Wind and Rain, which blew away every Ship's Mainfail that was set; and the *Torbay's* Foretopmast came by the Board, though there was not a knot of Sail on it: The *Restauration*, a Third Rate, was so disabled that she was forced to go to *Spithead*, having sprung her Bowsprit, broke her Mainyard, and her Main and Mizzen-topmasts.

The 29th, the Vice-Admiral received Advice from the Lords of the Admiralty, That the *East-India* Company desired the Squadron might cruize 300 Leagues West from *Ireland*, between the Latitudes of 49 and 50 North, for the better Security of their Trade expected home; but it appearing that the

the Squadron had no more than four weeks Water, and not above 3 weeks Butter, Cheese, and Necessaries, it was not thought practicable to proceed so far Westward as the Company expected they should.

After this a Letter from Captain *Crow*, dated the 10th of *August*, to the Lord *Berkeley*, was taken into Consideration, giving an Account; That the *Portugal* Fleet was daily expected home; and thereupon a Council of War resolved to continue in the former Station, 60 Leagues S. W. from the *Lizard*, till the 7th of *September*, and then to rendezvous S. W. by W. 40 Leagues from the said Place, till the 15th: And since their Provisions and Necessaries would be then reduced to about 10 or 15 days, it was determined to make the best of their way to *Spithead*, where arriving, he received Orders from the Lords of the Admiralty; and, pursuant thereunto, took Care for getting the *Boyn*, *Expedition*, *Hampton Court*, *Mary*, *Sunderland*, and *Severne*, ready to go into the *Soundings*, in Company of the *Newark*, *Chichester*, and *Restoration*; And having prepared the necessary Instructions for the said Ships on that Service, he was constrained to go on Shoar for Recovery of his Health.

This

*Captain
Geo.
Meez ap-
pointed to
command
a Squa-
dron, and
sent into
the
Soun-
dings.*

This Squadron Captain George Meez was appointed to command; and the 29th of September, 1696, he was ordered to proceed therewith into the *Soundings*, and to cruize between Cape Clear and Cape Finisterre, for Security of the Trade. He did accordingly cruize in that Station as long as his Provisions would last; and then returned to *Spithead* with three *French Privateers*, the one of 38 Guns, another of 36, and the third of 14.

*Intelli-
gente of
the Mis-
chief the
French
had done
us at
New-
found-
land.*

In his Cruize he met with a Vessel from *Newfoundland*, whose Master informed him, that at the beginning of September, 8 Privateers, one of which had 50 Guns, three of 40 each, and another 36, the others smaller, together with two Fireships, came on that Coast, and destroyed the Plantations of *Ferryland*, *Agna Fort*, *Fermooze*, *Renooze*, *Loude's Cove*, *Breakhurst*, and the Bay of *Bulls*; in which Bay our own People burnt the *Saphire*, a Fifth Rate, to prevent her falling into the Enemy's hands.

*Rear-
Admiral
Benbow
appointed
to com-
mand the
Squadron
off of
Dun-
kirk.*

The beginning of May, 1696, Rear-Admiral Benbow was ordered to command the Squadron that lay off of *Dunkirk*, to prevent Monsieur *Du Bart's* getting out from thence; which Ships he found lying North from *Dunkirk* about

about 5 Leagues. He immediately proceeded in his Boat within a Mile of the Enemy's Ships in *Flemish* Road, which were 9 in number, and all ready to sail: And since the Wind was then out of the Western Quarter, and fair Weather, and that the Tides were coming on, he expected them out of the North Chanel; and therefore having not Ships sufficient to cover both, he spread those he had, *English* and *Dutch*, before that Chanel; and the next day, being hazey Weather, he sent a Ship to look into the West Chanel, where there was nothing to be seen. The morning following he sent a Boat in with the Shoar, and had an Account by her, That there was no Ships in *Flemish* Road: So that it was found that *Du Bart* had given him the Slip out of the East Chanel, which was close along Shoar.

On the 20th the Rear-Admiral spoke with the Master of a Vessel who came from *Norway*, and saw *Du Bart* on the West End of the *Doggar* Bank, with 11 Sail, laying his Head Eastward, under his Low-Sails, the Wind at N. N. E; and being of opinion that he would cruize for some time between that Place and the *Texel*, proceeded thither in search of him: But the *Dutch* having

The French Ships there get out.

The Rear-Admiral proceeds to the Doggar Bank in search of them.

ving no Orders so to do, refused to accompany him.

Du Bart
takes se-
veral
Dutch
Men of
War and
Merchant
Ships.

The 12th of *June*, 1696, he received Advice in *Yarmouth* Roads, that *Du Bart* had met, near the South end of the *Doggar* Bank, with 5 *Dutch* Men of War, and about 70 Merchant Ships, bound to *Holland* from the East Country, and that he had taken the Men of War, and about 30 of the others, which, together with 4 of the Frigats, he set fire to, upon the approach of 13 other *Dutch* Ships that gave him Chase, but that he sent the other two Frigats to *Holland* with the Prisoners.

Rear-
Admiral
Benbow
and some
Dutch
Ships of
War go
in quest of
Du Bart.

The Moment he receiv'd this Advice, he ordered the Ships bound to the East Country to Anchor, and getting under Sail with his Squadron, came up with the Trade from *Hull*, under Convoy of 5 *Dutch* Men of War, who informing him that they saw 8 Sail to the South-East that very Morning, they proceeded together in search of them; but not meeting them, or any further Account, he returned again to *Yarmouth* Roads, and from thence proceeded with the East Country Trade, and arrived at *Gottenburgh* the 30th of *June*, having detached necessary Convoys to the Ships bound to the several Ports. At *Gottenburgh* he was informed by the Master of

a *Danish Ship*, who came from the *Cow* He hears
and Calf in Norway, that he had left at Got-
Du Bart there with 10 Sail, cleaning ten-
 and watering, and that for his greater burgh
 Security, he had placed a considerable that he
 Number of his Guns on Shoar. was at
the Cow
and Calf

Our Ships were not in Condition to
 go in search of him there, otherwise
 they might very probably have done
 Service; but since they wanted Provi-
 sions, and many other Necessaries, the
 Rear-Admiral was constrained to return The Rear-
 to *Yarmouth Roads*, and from thence to Admiral
 the *Downes*, where he was supply'd, and returns to
 then repaired to *Hamburgh*, to bring Yar-
 from thence a rich Trade, that had on- mouth
 ly two Frigats for their Convoy. Roads,
and then
proceeds

In his Passage towards *Hamburgh*, he to Convoy
 got Intelligence that the Trade from the Trade
 thence was arriv'd off of *Orfordness*, so from
 that his Care for them being over, he Hamb-
 proceeded off of the *Broad Fourteens* to burgh.
 look for *Du Bart*, and on the 15th of The Trade
September, 1696, met with 10 *Dutch* being ar-
 Men of War that came from the North, rived, he
 standing into the *Maes*: And on the goes off
 18th he spake with the *Ruby*, and three the Broad
English East-India Ships, that had come Four-
 North about, and 11 *Dutch* bound in- teens.
 to the *Texell*.

The next day he saw 10 Ships V.N. He sees
 W. of him, and making all the Sail Du Bart,
 A a and Cha-
 he sees him.

he could to speak with them, discovered by their working that it was *Du Bart's* Squadron, who missed the fairest opportunity imaginable of taking those *East-India* Ships. Two of our Ships got within an *English* League of him, but the rest were near three Leagues a-stern; and when we came to steer the same Course they did, it plainly appear'd they wrong'd us very much; so that losing sight of them, when the Night came on, and they shewing no Lights, the Rear-Admiral gave over chase.

Apprehension of a Descent from Brest, and Sir Cloudestly Shovel sent out.

About this time the King had some Advice as if the *French* were making great Preparations at *Brest*, in order to a Descent on this Kingdom, and therefore Sir *Cloudestly Shovel* was sent off of that Port with a considerable Squadron of Ships; but at length it appear'd that the occasion of this Apprehension was only the Equipment of Monsieur *Ponty's* Ships, with which he afterwards sailed to *Carthagena*, as will be related in its proper time.

It proved to be Monsieur Pointy's Squadron sailing out.

Rear-Admiral Nevil arrives with a Squadron at Cadiz.

I now come to the Squadron of Ships that were sent to the *Streights* with Rear-Admiral *Nevil*; who arriving at *Cadiz* the 9th of *December*, 1696, apply'd himself to the Governor, but could get no certain Account of their Flota;

Flota ; nor did he find that there was any Squadron of *French* Ships cruizing for them. On the 16th of *January* Vice-Admiral *Evertsen*, with 3 *Dutch* Men of War, and 45 Merchant Ships of several Nations, that had been separated in the Storm that happened in their Passage, and the *Turkey* Convoy, arrived ; and so soon as he had dispatched the said Trade home, he put to Sea with the Squadron the 9th of that Month, in Obedience to the Commands he had received from His Majesty ; and when he had reached 50 Leagues S.W. by W. from *Cadiz*, he opened other Orders from the King ; pursuant whereunto he made all the Sail he could to the Island of *Maderas*, where he was to be joined with some Ships under Command of Captain *George Meeze*, who acted as a Rear-Admiral for this Expedition. He ply'd off and on that Island 58 days, before any part of this Additional Strength from *England* arrived, and even then there was no more than the Rear-Admiral with his own Ship, and the *Bristol*, and *Lightening* Fireship, that came in ; the others, both *English* and *Dutch*, having been separated in a Fog just as he left the *Isle of Wight* ; but the Place appointed for their joining being

Is joined by some Dutch Men of War, and the Turkey Convoy.

Sailing from Cadiz he opens the King's private Orders, and proceeds to Maderas. He cruizes there a long time for Rear-Admiral Meeze.

He pro-
ceeds to-
wards
Barba-
does.

Arrives
at Bar-
badoes.

Sails for
Ante-
goa.

Barbadoes, the Vice-Admiral got to Sea, and stretch'd it away Southward, that so he might fall into the way of a Trade Wind; and being the first of *April* about 400 Leagues S. W. of *Madera*, he sent the *Bristol*, a good Sailer, to *Barbadoes*, with a Letter to the Governor, desiring him to send a Sloop, or some proper Vessel, to *Martinico*, to gain Intelligence of Monsieur *Ponty*, or any other considerable Force that the *French* might have there: And arriving himself at *Barbadoes* the 17th, he found all the Ships, except those of the States General, and the *Gosport* and *Blaze* Fireship; and the Sloop was also returned from *Martinico*, with an Account that there was but two small Ships there, judged to be Privateers. Not long after this the *Dutch* Ships and the *Gosport* joined him, so that after staying a few days to take in Water, and to perform some other Matters that were necessary, he came to sail, and bore away for *Antegoa*; the Place of Rendezvous, but kept an easie Sail, that so the *Dutch* Ships might come up with him, who had hooked some Rocks, and therefore could not readily get up their Anchors.

The 3d of *May*, 1697, he went on Shoar to advise with Colonel *Codrington*, Governor and Captain General of the

Lee-

Leeward Islands, who had Intelligence from *St. Thomas's*, *Corasso*, and *Providence*, that the *French* did design to attack *St. Domingo*, and that, in order thereunto, they had for several Months past been cutting a Path through the Woods, that so they might march by Land thither from *Petit-Guavas*.

Consults with General Comdring ton

The Vice-Admiral did hereupon consult all the Officers, both *English* and *Dutch*, who agreed it was proper to sail to *Punta de la Guada*, on the N.W. side of *Puerto-Rico*, for the better Security of the *Spanish* Fleet, (for that was a principal thing recommended to him by His Majesty's Instructions) where it was usual with them to stop to refresh their Men; and it was determined to remain there till further Intelligence could be got of the Enemy; for had the Squadron gone to Leeward to *Jamaica*, they could not have beat it up time enough from thence to *St. Domingo*, or any other Place on *Hispaniola*. The same day whereon this Resolution was taken he sailed, and the next sent one of the Frigats to *St. Thomas's* (an Island belonging to the Crown of *Denmark*) for a Pilot to conduct her to *Puerto-Rico* for Intelligence, from whence she was to return to *Punta de la Guada*, the Place of Rendezvous: And if the

A Council of War called, and agreed to sail in search of the Spanish Fleet.

Squadron did not arrive there in seven days time, she was to make the best of her way to *Jamaica*.

This Ship joined him on the 8th of May, 1697, and brought with her Mr. Price, who commanded an *Engliff* Merchant Ship, taken by the *French*, which they carried to *Petit Guavas*, as also two *Spanish* Gentlemen, one of them the Lieutenant of the *Margareta Patach*, taken on the Coast of *Carracoe*, and the other Lieutenant of the *Santa Chriſti*, Vice-Admiral of the *Barlavento* Fleet; who all ſaid, That Monsieur Ponty ſailed from *Petit Guavas* to Leeward the 11th of March, Old Style, with 26 Ships, ſmall and great. This occaſioned a Council of War, by whom it was reſolved to proceed forthwith to *Jamaica*. Being off of the Eaſt End of that Iſland the 15th of May, 1697, the Vice-Admiral met with a Sloop, the Maſter whereof informed him there was a flying Report of the *French* Squadron's being before *Carthage-na*; wherefore he ſtayed no longer than was abſolutely neceſſary to take in Water, but ſailed from *Port Royal*, and attempted to go out of the Leeward Chanel; but in that he was prevented by the dying away of the Land Breeze: And, contrary to the Knowledge of all

He re-
ceives In-
telligence
of Mon-
ſieur
Ponty's
Squadron

He heard
a flying
Report of
Ponty's
being at
Cartha-
gena.

all Persons acquainted in those Parts, the Sea Breeze blew for six days and nights together, during which time an *English* Sloop came in, that left *Porto Bello* the 18th of this Month, in Company of the Galleons, (which were 15 in number) and two days after parted with them, steering away N. N. E. for *Jamaica*, where they intended to take in Provisions, for which they were so much streightened, that they had not enough to carry them to the *Havana*. The Vice-Admiral sent out two Sloops to look for them, the one off of the Keys of *Point Pedro*, and the other those of *Porto Morant*, and to let their General know, That he was going to *Carthagena*, to see what could be done against the *French*; but that he would return to *Jamaica* in a short time.

The 24th he took the Advantage of a small Gale off Shoar, and getting clear of the Keys, steered away S. E. by S, and S. S. E, for *Carthagena*; and being the 27th about half Seas over, that part of his Squadron which was to Windward, made the Signal of seeing Ships standing Westward; whereupon he immediately tack'd, and stood after them, with a prest Sail, judging them to be either *French*, or the *Spanish* Galleons. Early the next day he discovered

Had Advice of the Galleons.

In his Passage to Carthagena he meets with and chases Monsieur Ponty.

red them to be Monsieur *Ponty*, with 10 Ships of War, and two Flyboats, and they were about three Leagues ahead, at which time he made the Signal for chasing, and the *Warwick*, a Ship of 50 Guns, coming on the Broad-side of one of them, fired at her ; but the *French* Ship wronging her very much in sailing, got clear. Soon after this she came up with a Fly-boat, laden with Powder, Cannon Ball, Shells, and one Mortar, which Vessel she took : And our Squadron had by this time gained upon the Enemy ; but the Wind coming to the N. E, they got to Windward ; and in the afternoon the *Bristol*, *Trydent*, *Gosport*, and *Newcastle*, being near them, they put themselves into Order of Battel, and Monsieur *Ponty* himself fired several Shot at the *Bristol*. Soon after it was judged that Monsieur *D'Labee*, who acted as Vice-Admiral and another of their Ships, had a Design to leave them, as indeed it proved ; for they were shot considerably a-head, and did not endeavour to close the Line. Somewhat before 8 a Clock at night there happened a Squall of Wind, when our Ships nearest the Enemy made a Signal that they had tick'd, upon which our whole

whole Squadron went about, and stood Southward all Night, with a stout Sail.

The next Morning, being the 29th of May, 1697, it began to blow fresh, and Monsieur Ponty, with 5 Sail more, was got about 6 or 7 Miles a-head of our Vice-Admiral, but some of our Ships were much nearer him; and the Chase being continued with a fresh Gale, which occasioned a great Sea, the *Bristol*, *Southampton*, and *Trydent*, lost their Top-masts, and the Vice-Admiral's own Ship, as well as that where Rear-Admiral *Meese* wore his Flag, sprang their Fore-top-masts: However they chased on all day, and in the evening the *Rupert*, *Gosport*, *Sunderland*, and *Colchester*, and a *Dutch Ship* of War, was not far from the Enemy, who, without tacking again, stood on Southward.

The Damages which our Ships received in their Masts and Sails.

The next Morning, so soon as 'twas light, Monsieur Ponty was seen with 5 Ships about 4 Miles a-head; but all ours were out of sight of their Flag, except the *Sunderland*, *Pembroke*, and *Gosport*, and even they were considerably a-stern, by reason of the loss of their Top-masts; but as the Day came on others joined, and then it was found that the *Rupert*, *Colchester*, and a *Dutch Ship*,

Ship, had in the Night met with the like Misfortune.

Our Vice-Admiral weather'd and fore-reach'd upon Monsieur *Ponty* insomuch that he made a Signal for his Ships that kept a better Wind than he did, to bear down to him; and the Vice-Admiral was once so near the Sternmost of them, that they had like to have come to blows. As the Day came on the Gale freshned, and about Nine it blew hard, at which time the *Pembroke's* Top-mast came by the Board, and about 10 the Vice-Admiral's Main-sail gave way in two places, so that he was forced to take it in, and repair it on the Yard.

The
French
perceiv-
ing our
Misfor-
tunes,
shortned
Sail to
ease their
Ships.

When the *French* saw these Misfortunes (of which they had no share) they all took in their Fore-top-sails; for being sharp Ships, they could not well endure the great Sea that ran. The Vice-Admiral quickly set his Main-sail again, but running up with the Enemy, the Clew of his Fore-sail gave way, and the Sail it self split from Clew to Ear-ring and soon after his Fore-top-sail blew all in pieces; so that before other Sails could be brought to the Yards, the *French* were shot a great way ahead; but he made the Signal for the *Sunderland* and *Gosport* to keep sight of them. The first of these Ships was no
sooner

fooner shot a-head of him, but her Main-top-mast went by the Board, and the Weather-clew of her Fore-top-sail fail'd : And the *Gosport* also sprung her Fore-mast. Through these Misfortunes, which followed so fast one after the other, the *French* shot so far a-head that they could not be seen in the Night, nor was it known whether they tackt or bore up, or which way they stood, so that the Vice-Admiral kept on his Course Southward, but no more of his Squadron was in sight the next Morning than the *Sunderland* and *Gosport*, and they a-stern. These unlucky Accidents prevented the rich Booty's falling in our hands, which Monsieur *Ponty* had got together at the taking of *Carthagena* ; and indeed it is somewhat Unaccountable, that our Ships should only suffer in their Topmasts and Sails.

I know it has been alledged, that the Heat in those Parts eats out all, or greatest part of the Tar, and that thereby the Sails are weakned, and apt to split even through the Seams ; but certain it is, that they did as often rend in the very Canvas too : And if our Sails were made of as good Stuff, and work'd up as well, I see no reason why they should not have proved as durable as those of the *French*, who, being chased, were obliged

The supposed Occasions of our so great loss of Masts and Sails.

obliged to put theirs to as great a tryal, after they had been longer exposed to the Heat of the Country. And as for the Top-masts, I do believe that the loss of them might chiefly proceed, from the not letting them down far enough to the Head of the lower Masts ; or rather, the not lengthning the Heads of those low Masts, that so one might have the greater hold of the other ; a thing that has since been rectify'd.

The Vice-Admiral, having lost the French, seeks for Carthagena.

The Weather was at this time very close, and the Vice-Admiral judging himself to be about 18 Leagues short of *Carthagena*, the appointed Rendezvous, he stood in for that Place, to pick up his shatter'd, straggling Squadron, and in the Evening brought to within sight of the Land, Rear-Admiral *Meesé*, with six Ships more, then joining him, which likewise had all their Sails blown away.

Anchors at the Mouth of the Harbour.

The next Day in the Evening, being the First of *June*, he anchored before *Boca Chiga* Castle, the Entrance to *Carthagena* Harbour, and about four Miles Northward of the Town ; and seeing a great Breach, he concluded that the *French* had dismantled and quitted it ; but that he might be the better informed, he sent in a Boat, with a Lieutenant and a *Spanish* Pilot, in the Night, who found
in.

in the Town no more than 40 *Spaniards*,
 Three or Four of whom were brought
 into the Squadron, and said that the
French had taken and quitted the Place;
 and that the People had all deserted
 it for fear of the Privateers, who were
 gleaning up Monsieur *Ponty's* leavings.
 Upon this the Vice-Admiral weighed,
 and came to an Anchor before the Town,
 offering to assist the Inhabitants with
 Men, Powder, Muskets, &c. But altho'
 the People began to flock into the Place,
 and did design to stay so long as the
 Squadron continued there, yet would
 not the Governor advance from the two
 Days journey he had made into the
 Country; and the People were so ter-
 rify'd by the Privateers, who, after
 Monsieur *Ponty* sailed, put many to
 Torture, and did much Mischief, that
 they declared they would not stay a
 Moment longer than the Squadron
 did.

*The Con-
 dition he
 found the
 Town in.*

*The Cru-
 elty of the
 Privi-
 teers, af-
 ter Pon-
 ty sailed.*

At length the Governor took Cou-
 rage, and coming into the Town the
 next Day, did at Night send his Lieute-
 nant to the Vice-Admiral, letting him
 know he had not a Grain of Powder,
 no small Arms, or so much as a Mus-
 ket-Ball; nor was it reasonable to be-
 lieve (considering how the *Spanish* Ga-
 risons in those Parts of the World,

*The great
 want of
 Powder
 and Am-
 munition
 at Car-
 thagena.*

as well as at Home, are generally provided for) that he was over-stock'd when the Attempt was made; but notwithstanding his present want, he (like a right *Spaniard*) neither condescended to ask for, or to purchase any. The Vice-Admiral sent him word, That he was going that Night to Sea, being fearful that the Galleons were in danger, but that if the Winds did hang out of the way, he would spare him what he could.

The Vice-Admiral sails from Carthage.

The next Day at noon the Wind came Westerly, and hearing nothing from the Governor, he weighed, and stood Eastward, leaving Orders for the Ships that were missing to follow him; and, on the 6th, discovering 8 Privateers under the Shore of *Sambay*, he sent the *Colchester*, *Gosport*, *Virgin-Prize*, and *Lightning* Fireship, to destroy them, and then to stand over to Cape *Tibberoon*, the Place of Rendezvous; and not finding the Squadron there, they, and the other Ships missing, were ordered to repair to *Petit-Guavas*; but the Vice-Admiral being not able to fetch in with either of those Places, proceeded to *Hispaniola*, and having taken a Privateer of 24 Guns off of the Island of *Navassa*, Westward of *Hispaniola*, which the *Colchester* had gi-
ven

ven chase to, and burnt another of 12 Guns, that ran on shore near Cape *Dona Maria*, he Anchored the 19th of *June*, in order to Water and Wood ; but 4 or 5 Days before, he sent a Frigate to *St. Jago*, with a Letter to the Governor of the *Havana*, and another to the General of the Galleons, which floating Magazines of Silver were certainly in great want of Provisions, otherwise they would not have ventured out of *Porto Bello*, knowing that they should be obliged to come up as high as *Carthagena*, before they could stretch over and weather the Shoals : And as they did not come out more than two Days before Monsieur *Ponty* left *Carthagena*, or without knowledge of his being there ; so is it not unreasonable to believe, that he had Advice of their departure from *Porto Bello*, and that he was cruizing for them at the very time our Squadron met him and gave him chase.

He writes to the Governor of the Havana and General of the Galleons.

The Hazard the Galleons were in from Ponty's Squadron.

The 22d of *June*, 1697, the Vice-Admiral was inform'd by Sir *William Beeston*, Governor of *Jamaica*, That it would be of great Service if he could destroy *Petit-Guavas*, which induced him to order Rear-Admiral *Meeße* on that Expedition, with 9 Ships of the Squadron ; of whose Proceedings there-

Rear-Admiral Meeße sent with a Squadron to destroy Petit-Guavas

in it is now a proper time to give the following Account. Before he arrived at *Petit-Guavas* he made a Detachment of about 900 Men from the Ships, 250 whereof he put into a Sloop, 100 on board a Fifth Rate Frigate, and the rest into the Boats; and when he came within 16 or 17 Leagues of the Place, he left the two Ships, with Orders not to appear in sight, but to get in early the next Morning: But finding he could not reach the Port himself that Night, he ordered the said Ships not to come in till the next Day.

Our People land
at Petit-Guavas,
and make them-
selves Masters of
it

On Monday the 28th of *June*, at half an Hour after Three in the Morning, he landed with Colonel *Kirkby*, Captain *Lytcot*, Captain *Holmes*, Captain *Julius*, Captain *Elliot*, and Captain *Moore*, and 400 Men, a Mile Eastward of *Petit-Guavas*, and marched directly to the Town; the Sloop, and some of the Boats, that had about 100 of the Men, not being able to keep up with him. He thought it would be much more easie to take the Place by Surprize, with the Men he had, than to discover himself by staying for the rest, and therefore enter'd it just at dawn of Day, and marched directly to, and immediately took the Grand Guard. When this was done, he sent 100 Men to secure

secure two Batteries of four Guns each ; and whilst the same was executing, most of the *French* quitted the Town.

Soon after the Sun was up, the Sailers began to be so unruly, that nothing could divert them from Plundering, and in an Hour or two the most of them were so drunk, that notwithstanding the well-laid Design of the Rear-Admiral, to make himself, and them Masters of the Plunder, by appointing a Captain, and some pick'd Men, to begin at each end of the Town, and so to have met one another, he was constrain'd to set fire to the Place much sooner than he intended, otherwise he could not have depended on 50 Sober and Serviceable Men ; inso-much that nothing was carried off but a few Negroes, and other inconsiderable Things, though it was reported (how truly I cannot say) that, two Days before, four Mules came into the Town, loaden with Gold and Silver from the Isle of *Ash*, part of what the Privateers brought from *Carthagera*.

The Disorders of the Sailers prevent the carrying off the Plunder.

Our Officers and Men behaved themselves with Bravery on this Occasion, the latter having chearfully rowed many Leagues in that hot Country ; and it was great pity, that their Ungovernableness robbed both themselves and

their Officers, of what would have sufficiently made them amends for their Fatigue.

Having thus taken up a little of your time concerning *Petit-Guayon*, I will yet farther intrude on your Patience, by giving you a short Account of the Manner of Monsieur *Ponty*'s attacking *Carthagena*.

*The Man-
ner of
Monsieur
Ponty's
attacking
Cartha-
gena.*

On the 13th of *April*, 1697, he appeared before the Place, with 26 Ships, great and small, and bombarded it till 10 in the Morning on the 15th. Then he attack'd the Castle of *Boco Chiga*, with three Ships, and 2000 Men and two Mortars, by Land, and about Five in the Afternoon he made himself Master of it. The next Day the Fleet entering the Bay, he sent 2400 Men to the Castle of *Boca Grande*, which was found deserted. The 17th they landed on *Terra Firma*, and attack'd and dispersed 240 Mulatto's, who defended themselves very well: After which they march'd to a Hill called *De la Papa*, where they planted their Colours. On the 18th they attack'd the Fort called *St. Lazar's*, at the Foot of the said Hill, and after four vigorous Assaults, the Defendants retir'd to the Town. The 20th, 21st, and 22d, they batter'd the Suburb

Suburb called *Gigimany*, by the Half-Moon at *Island Gate*, but on the 23d and 24th they ceased firing, by reason they were employ'd in planting 5 Mortars, and 24 great Guns, with which they batter'd the Fortifications the 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th; and having opened a great Breach, they took in the Suburb the 29th, after a handsome Defence; immediately after which they battered the Walls of the Town with Guns from the Ships and the Shore, and with Mortars; whereupon the Alderman (the Civil Magistrate of the Place) finding the City so briskly attacked, propos'd its being deliver'd up, but the Governor refused, and began to make inward Works to resist the Assaults: Nevertheless, coming soon after to a Parley, he was prevail'd with, and Monsieur *Ponty* and Monsieur *Du Cassé*, concluded the Capitulations; which was, "That the Governor should march out
"on Horseback, with two Field-pieces,
"the Garrison with their Arms, and
"the Men, Women, and Children,
"with all the Clothes they could
"carry.

The 3d of May, 1697, the *French* took possession of the City, and so civil were they to the Inhabitants, that they executed a Soldier for attempting

to take a Ring from a Mulato Woman. What Riches they met with is variously reported ; but I am apt to think, if fell short of the Ten Millions, which 'tis said they carried away.

I return now to Vice-Admiral *Nevil*, who having Wooded and Watered the Ships, got under Sail the 29th of *June*, to meet Rear-Admiral *Meeſe*, who join'd him the next Day ; and then he stood for *Jamaica*, that he might get the Ships from thence, and proceed directly for the *Havana*, in ſearch of the Galleons, of whom he had not yet any certain Account.

The 11th of *July* he made the Ile of *Pines* ; the 13th he came up with Cape *St. Anthony's*, the Weſt of *Cuba*, and the 16th he got about the *Colleradoes* ; but the Fleet was at this time very Sickly, and the next Day Rear-Admiral *Meeſe* died.

Rear-
Admiral
Meeſe
dies.

The Squadron arriving at the *Havana* the 22d of *July*, 1697, the Vice-Admiral acquainted the Governor, That he was in great want of Water and Reſreſhments, and therefore deſired permiſſion to come into the Port, that ſo he might make proviſion for his Voyage to *Cadiz*, to which place he deſign'd (according to his Inſtructions) to ſee the Galleons in ſafety. This he was
not

The Vice-
Admiral
comes to
the Ha-
vana, and
is denied
Water
and Re-
freſh-
ments by
the Spa-
niards.

not only refused, but almost every thing he requested; the *Don* alledging, That the King his Master's Instructions would not justify his permitting the Squadron to come into that Port; but that if he would repair to *Mutanfes*, (a Place where there was not depth of Water for his Ships) he would endeavour to supply his wants; but yet doubted his capacity to do it effectually, since the Galleons had already very much drain'd the Place of Provisions.

The Vice-Admiral writ also to the General of the Galleons, letting him know that the Squadron he commanded was sent chiefly to secure those rich Imbarcations, and to conduct them safe to *Cadiz*; but he was pleased to answer, That he had received no Orders of that nature from the King of *Spain*, and was therefore obliged to follow those he had; but that he was sorry he could not have the Opportunity of accompanying him.

The Vice-Admiral acquaints the General of the Galleons that he had Orders to Convey them Home. His Answer.

It cannot be thought but that this Treatment was very surprizing; nor, possibly, should I be much in the wrong, if I judge that the usual Jealousie of the *Spaniard* gave them Apprehensions, that our Ships would endeavour not only to make themselves Masters of the Place, but the Galleons too. In fine, the Vice-Admiral

The Squadron sails for Virginia, and the Vice-Admiral dies.

Captain Dilkes proceeds home with the Ships.

finding that nothing could be had here, put the Ships into the best Condition that possibly he could, and sailed for *Virginia*, where he died the 27th of *August*, 1697, occasion'd, as I am apt to believe, as much through the Grief and Vexation this Expedition had expos'd him to, as of any Natural Distemper. By his Death, and the Rear-Admiral's, the Command of the Squadron devolved on Captain *Thomas Dilkes*, and he having done all that possibly he could towards refreshing the Men, and procuring Provisions, sailed from *Virginia*, and arrived in *England* the 24th of *October*, with part of the Squadron, the rest, that were separated in bad Weather, dropping in both before and after.

Monsieur Ponty comes with his Squadron to Newfoundland, where we had also a Squadron commanded by Captain Norris.

Monsieur Ponty having narrowly escap'd Vice-Admiral *Nevil's* Squadron, got not to *Brest* without running the hazard of being twice more intercepted, first at *Newfoundland* by Captain *Norris*, and afterwards in the *Soundings*, by a Squadron commanded by Captain *Harlow*, with which he Engaged. For coming to *Newfoundland* (the first Place he touch'd at after he left the *West-Indies*) Captain *Norris*, who commanded a Squadron of our Ships there, had Intelligence that several

ral French Men of War were seen off of Cape-Land Bay; which was confirmed the next Day by several Fishing People; and Guns were heard both by Day and Night. But it being believed that this was Monsieur Nesmond's Squadron, or part thereof, two Bombs were laid cross the Harbour of St. John's, and the Squadron put into a Line of Battel, which was composed of four Fourth Rates, two Fifth, two Sixths, two Fireships, and two Bomb-Vessels, with a Hag-boat. Colonel Gibson's Regiment, that was carried by the Squadron from England, were embarked, and several Guns mounted on the Batteries ashore; and five Ships were seen the 23d, about four Leagues into the Sea, which in the Evening stood in for Conception Bay.

It's belie-
ving
them to
be Mon-
sieur
Nes-
mond.
provide
for the
safety of
St John's

A Council of War was called the next Day, of the Sea and Land-Officers, by whom it was agreed to continue in the Harbour of St. John's, and the Mary Galley, being clean, was sent out to discover them. About Noon news came from Carboniere, that five French Men of War were seen off of that Port; and another Consultation being there-upon held, the Majority were still for continuing at St. John's: But Captain Norris was for going in search of them,

A Council
of War
agree to
continue
at St.
John's.

The French
seen off
Carbo-
niere;
but resol-
ved still
to conti-
nue at
St. John's
tho' Cap-

tain Norris was of a contrary Opinion.

being of Opinion, that if those 5 Ships in *Conception* Bay had any Communication with others at Sea, it would have been discovered from Cape *St. Francis*, or *Baccallio*, if within 15 Leagues one of the other; and that if they had any design to attack *St. John's* by Land, he must have had notice of their Forces being put on Shore.

MrCumberbatch gives an Account of the French Squadron

The next Day he received a Letter from Mr. *Alexander Cumberbatch*, Master of a Ship taken by the *French*, and sent on Shore to assist in getting them fresh Provisions, by which he was informed, that Monsieur *Ponty* was in *Conception* Bay, with 5 Ships from 50 to 60 Guns, very richly loaden with the Spoil of *Carthagena*. This Notice he sent him in hopes it might be Serviceable to his Country, and advised him withal, to be very expeditious in attacking them, for that they were but weakly Mann'd.

A Council of War suspects Cumberbatch and again determines to remain at St. John's.

A general Council of War was here-upon called, where it was voted, That there was reason to believe Monsieur *Nesmond* was come to *Newfoundland* with a Squadron, and that *Cumberbatch* was sent on Shore by him to ensnare them; because in his Letter he said he was to return to the *French* Ships; so that it was again determined to continue at *St. John's*: for that by attacking the

the Ships in *Conception Bay*, *Nesmond* might have had opportunity of making himself Master of *St. John's*, and consequently of the whole Country; but the Commadore, Captain *Norris*, was still for going to Sea, for his former Reasons.

The 26th at Noon there was Intelligence, That the 5 *French Ships* were seen the Night before at Anchor a little Eastward of *Bell Isle*, by *Portugal Cove*; and the next Day, upon a Message from Colonel *Gibson*, there was another Consultation, where this Intelligence was read; but it was resolved to remain till the two Captains arrived, who were sent to make a Discovery. Soon after one of them came, with 21 *French-Men*, that he had taken in a Boat at *Carboniere*, who said they were sent by Monsieur *Ponty* to procure fresh Provisions. The other Captain returned also from *Portugal Cove*, who saw the *French Ships* at Anchor, one of them of 3 Decks, two from 60 to 70 Guns, and two more about 50. The Court adjourned till the next Morning, and then calling the Prisoners before them, they related all they knew, fearing that otherwise they should be very ill treated. They said the Squadron had not been at any other Port since they left the *West-Indies*, and that

Intelligence of the French Squadron by Officers sent on purpose.

Account of the Squadron by Prisoners taken.

Mon-

Captain
Desbo-
row's
Account.

Monsieur *Ponty* hearing of Vice-Admiral *Nevil's* being in those Parts, appointed the Rendezvous at *St. Peter's*, or *Placentia*, in *Newfoundland*; but not making the Island about *Placentia* plain, by reason of thick Weather, the first Place they dropt Anchor at was *Conception* Bay. While the Council of War was sitting Captain *Desborow* arrived, and gave them an Account, That the *French* Ships lay under their Topsails, plying up and down in the Bay; but that being about five Miles off from them, he could not well discover their Force. Notwithstanding all this, the Majority of the Council of War were

A Council
of War
believe
Monsieur
Nesmond
on the Coast,
and
therefore
resolve
not to stir.

still of Opinion, That Monsieur *Nesmond* (who had sailed from *France* a considerable time before, with 11 Ships of War and 3 Fireships) was on the Coast; and therefore, contrary to the Opinion of Captain *Norris*, determined not to pursue the *French*; for that the Port of *St. John's* might thereby be exposed to eminent Danger, by separating the Ships and the Land Forces: And had not the latter been there, or at least not been empowered to sit at Councils of War, 'tis probable there might have been a better Account given of the Enemy; for the Land Officers, at least several of them, were unwilling to leave

St.

St. John's, a Place which they were directed particularly to endeavour to protect.

Captain *Desborow* was again sent out to observe the Enemy's Motion, with Orders to bring early Advice thereof; and returning the 31st at Noon, he declared, That the 28th at Midnight he saw 4 Sail under his Lee-Bow, which he made to be *French*; that soon after the Stern-most Ship fired a Gun, and then made several false Fires; upon which the Lights were instantly put out, so that he lost sight of them. That at two in the Morning he stood Northward, with little Wind at N.N.E, and not seeing any Ships when the Day appeared, made the best of his way into *Carboniere*; but the Wind veering at Noon to S.S.W, the Current had set him, by the 29th at Night, between *Harbour Grace* Island and that of *Carboniere*, but that so soon as the Breeze came on, he made the best of his way to *St. John's*. He was immediately sent out a third time, with Orders to sail right into the Sea till he came on the Bank of *Newfoundland*, and if he did not see the aforesaid Ships, or any other Squadron, to repair to Cape *Race*, and endeavour to gain Intelligence from *Placentia*. The 9th of *August* in the Mor-

Captain Desborow is again sent out, and brings Intelligence.

Morning he returned, and related, That about 12 at Night, on the *Saturday* before, he saw several Lights to Windward; that at two a Clock four of the Ships fired 3 Guns each, and then tackt and stood off Shoar; whereupon he made Sail, and kept his Wind, in order to get under Cape Race, the Wind being then at W. by S, but tackt so soon as 'twas Light, and stood within three times Gun-shot of the headmost, and then laid by and looked on them. He made them to be 15 in all, the Admiral a Three Deck Ship, four of about 80 Guns, 6 from 70 to 60, two of 50, and the other three either Frigats or Fireships. When he had view'd them well he wore his Ship, and brought to towards the Shoar, but the Enemy's Squadron tackt at six a Clock, and standing off, he followed them, which they perceiving, one of them stood in towards the Shoar to cut him off from the Cape.

A Squadron of 15 Ships appear off St. John's with 3 Swallow-Tayl'd Flags.

The 18th in the Morning this Squadron came off the Harbour of *St. John's*, which was about 32 Days after the first Notice of Monsieur *Ponty's* being at *Newfoundland*. They were in all 15, with three Swallow-Tayl'd Flags, 10 of them Ships from 50 to 70 Guns, the other either Fireships or small Frigats,

as Captain *Desborow* had reported. They viewed our Ships, and then stood off upon a Wind ; but at Noon, the Wind casting into the Harbour, they tackt and stood in, and the Wind soon after taking them short, they laid their Heads off and brought to, and were not seen again till the 23d about Noon, when 12 of them were discover'd about 7 Leagues out at Sea ; and that was the last sight of them.

The Method that was taken to defend our selves was this ; All the Men of War lay in a Half-Moon to the Harbour's Mouth, and each Ship's Broad-side commanded the two Booms : Colonel *Gibson's* Regiment was posted at the two Batteries, and about the Harbour's Mouth, and Captain *Richards* (who was the Engineer for fortifying the Harbour) was making such Works as he judg'd necessary on this occasion ; and that the Squadron might be the better able to do Service, all the Men were taken from the Merchant Ships, and put on board them.

Having thus informed you in what manner Monsieur *Ponty*, with his rich Squadron, escaped Vice-Admiral *Nevil* in the *West-Indies*, and Captain *Norris* at *Newfoundland* ; it remains that I follow him to *Brest*, and let you know what

what past upon his encountering the Ships commanded by Captain *Harlow* in the *Soundings*.

Captain
Harlow
meets
with Mon-
sieur
Ponty in
the
Soun-
dings.

The 14th of *August*, 1697, Cap-
tain *Harlow*, with a Squadron of six
Ships and a Fireship, viz. two of
80 Guns, two of 70, and one of 30,
was about 90 Leagues W. S. W. from
Scilly, and one of the Ships, the *De-
fiance*, made the Signal of seeing Lights
to Windward. As the Day came on
five Sail were discover'd; which about
8 in the Morning bore down, while
our Squadron ply'd up to them, and
endeavoured to get into a Line of Bat-
tel; and thereupon the *Betty*, a Fifth
Rate, that was sent to make what they
were, returned to her proper Station.

Monsieur *Ponty* having view'd our
Squadron, thought it convenient to
make some Alterations in his Line, by
changing the Ships, but yet bore down
with all the Sail he could, and brought
to, about two in the Afternoon, out of
Gun-shot. He continued not long in
that Posture, but bore down again, and
worked his Ships as if he did intend to
press the Van of our Squadron; upon
which Captain *Harlow* sent to the *De-
vonshire* to fill and stand away upon a
Wind, that she might the better fall
in with Monsieur *Ponty*, who about
three

three in the Afternoon brought to directly against him, within two thirds Gun-shot, and began the Fight.

After the Squadrons had engaged a-^{They Engage.} bout two hours, the *French* made the Signal for Tacking; but there was little Wind, which made them all refuse staying, unless the Ship that was opposite to the *Defiance*; and she having the head of her Main-top-mast shot away, which occasion'd the Yard's falling down to the Slings, set her Main-sail, and, not without great difficulty, wore, and then keeping her Wind, stood out of the Line, which put Monsieur *Ponty* himself in some disorder; but tho' he was constrained to bear up for her, yet he soon closed the Line again.

About six in the Evening the Gale ^{The French retire.} freshened, and shifted from W. by S. to S. W. by S, and S. S. W; whereupon the Enemy tackt, and our Commadore made the Signal for his Rear to tack also; and setting his Main-sail, that he might be sure of staying, he was no sooner about, but he made all the Sail he could after them, and they from him; but in the Night we lost sight of them, tho' we did, between 8 and 9, discover some of their Lights, and by that means had an opportunity of steering after them, they bearing then N. E,
and

and N. E. by N ; but between 10 and 11 they were all out of sight : Wherefore Captain *Harlow* stood away between the N. E. and E, with an easie Sail, that so some of the Ships very far a-stern might come up with him.

The next Morning between four and five, the Weather being very clear, the Enemy were seen between the S. E. by E. and E. S. E, three or four Leagues off ; and the Wind being variable between the S. and S. W, but a gentle Gale, all Sails were set, and the Chase continued till Evening, at which time they were much at the same distance as in the Morning ; but so much did they wrong our Ships in sailing, that they could, at Pleasure, lower a Yard or a Topmast, to prevent their coming by the Board ; and this was occasion'd by our Ships being fouler than theirs, notwithstanding they came from so long a Voyage ; for undoubtedly they made a shift to heel and scrub them in the best manner they could when a-broad.

*The
French
wrong us
very
much in
sailing.*

The next Morning early they were a-head of us about 4 or 5 Miles, and as soon as they discovered us, they let out the Reifs of all their great Sails, and set all their small ones ; and tho' when they first made from us, their
Hulls

Hulls could be seen down to the Water-Line, yet in six hours time they ran so much out of sight, that not above half their Top-sails could be discovered above Water; insomuch that 'twas believed they went away with an easie Sail the Night before.

About 11 a Clock it blew fresh, and enclined to be thick and hazey; and Captain *Harlow* seeing no possibility of coming up with them, he brought to.

Thus did Monsieur *Ponti* fortunately escape the third time, and without farther Interruption carried the Spoil of the *Spaniards* into *Brest*. What it was that induced him to bear down and engage our Ships is uncertain to me; for tho' the Squadrons were almost equal, as to Strength, yet considering the Riches he had on board, I think he ought, in Prudence, to have declined a Battel; which in all probability he might have done, since (as it afterwards proved) his Ships were much too nimble for ours.

Observation about his engaging our Squadron.

I shall now return to the Body of the Fleet in the Year 1697, of which Sir *George Rooke* was appointed Admiral. With the great Ships he arrived off of the *South Foreland* the 2d of *June*, and intended to stop Tides from thence to *Spithead*; but being the next

day at Anchor off of *Dover*, a strong South West Wind obliged him to return to the *Downes*.

Sir Geo. Rooke arrives with the Fleet at St. Hellen's.

Setting Sail again, he arrived at *St. Hellen's* the 10th, in the evening, and there he met Rear-Admiral *Nassau*, with 10 *Dutch Ships of War*, who was first to convoy several Merchants to *Holland*, and then to return and join the Fleet.

A Council of War resolve to proceed to Sea, with as many Ships as could be Manned and Fitted.

The 14th a Council of War was called, where was present Sir *Cloudefly Shovell*, Admiral of the Blue, Vice-Admiral *Aylmer*, and Vice-Admiral *Mitchell*. It was agreed, That since there was great want of Men and Provisions, and a very small prospect of a sudden Supply, so many Ships should proceed to Sea as could be manned up to their middle Complements, and that the Ships unmann'd for the doing thereof, should secure themselves in *Portsmouth* Harbour : And the next day, at another Consultation, where was also present the *Dutch* Admiral, Vice-Admiral *Callemberg*, Rear-Admiral *Nenys*, and Captain *Bokenham*, it was resolved to proceed off of *Ushant* for Intelligence, and thence to remove as a Council of War should think most advisable.

There

There was a great want of small Frigats, and other proper Vessels, to prevent the Enemy's Snaaws discovering the Weakness of our Squadron; for although the intended Fleet, when all together, would have made up 47 *English*, and 23 *Dutch*, of the Line of Bat-tel, besides 17 Fireships, and other small Craft; yet was there, at this time, 43 of those 70 Ships absent on the following Services, *viz.*

	R A T E S.				
	1 st .	2 ^d .	3 ^d .	4 th .	
With Vice-Admiral Mit- chell in the <i>Soundings</i> , }	I	0	8	0	Ships ab- sent from the Fleet on other Services.
With Captain Beaumont in the <i>North Sea</i> , — }	0	0	4	0	
With Rear-Admiral Ben- bow in the <i>Soundings</i> , }	0	0	I	I	
Off of Cape de Hague, —	0	0	I	0	
Convoy between the <i>Downes</i> and <i>Falmouth</i> , }	0	0	I	0	
At <i>Woolwich</i> , —————	0	0	0	I	
At <i>Hudson's Bay</i> , —————	0	0	0	I	
On the Fishery, —————	0	0	0	I	
At <i>Hull</i> , —————	0	0	I	0	
Between the Isle of <i>Wight</i> and <i>Portland</i> , ————— }	0	0	0	I	
At the <i>Nore</i> , —————	0	0	I	0	
Unmann'd at <i>Blackstake</i> , —	0	3	0	0	
Unmann'd at <i>Portsmouth</i> , —	0	3	3	0	
<i>English</i> —	I	6	20	8	

		R A T E S.			
		1 st	2 ^d	3 ^d	4 th
With Rear-Admiral Nassau on the Coast of	}	0	8	1	0
Holland, —————					
Expected from North-	}	0	1	1	0
Holland, —————					
Dutch —		0	9	2	0
		1	6	20	5
In all, Dutch and English —		1	15	22	5

Rear-Admiral Nassau joined the Fleet. So that had not Rear-Admiral Nassau joined with the 10 Ships before mentioned, there could not have gone to Sea more than 35 Ships, great and small; nor was the Fleet at this time victualled with more than a Month's Bread and Beer, a very little more Butter and Cheese, somewhat above two Months Flesh, but not a Fortnight's Pease and Oatmeal. However Orders were sent, That the Ships which were ready should proceed to Sea, which was but 33, *Dutch and English*, and 8 Fireships, besides the Ships in the Soundings with Vice-Admiral Mitchell and Rear-Admiral Benbow, which join'd the Fleet the 25th of June off of *Plimouth*; so that now the Admiral had 44 Ships of

Vice Admiral Mitchell, and Rear-Admiral Benbow, also come in from the Soundings.

of the Line, and with them he got off of *Ushant* the 28th; but the Calms prevented his laying hold of that Coast till the 4th of the next Month, at which time Rear-Admiral *Benbow*, who had been sent to discover the posture of the Enemy at *Brest*, brought an Account, that there was but 10 Ships armed and ready for the Sea.

But the
Ships at
Brest
ready for
the Sea.

A Council of War was thereupon called, and 'twas resolved to enlarge the former Station from 10 to 40 or 50 Leagues W. N. W. from *Ushant*, thereby to cover the Chanel, and secure the Trade; and that 9 *English*, and 4 *Dutch* Ships of War, should cruize from 80 to 100 Leagues West from *Scilly* 14 or 16 days; and that after the Fleet had continued in the aforesaid Station 10 or 12 days, the whole should rendezvous in *Torbay*.

The Sta-
tion resol-
ved on at
a Council
of War.

Vice-Admiral *Mitchell* commanded this Squadron, and it was made so strong, lest he should happen to meet with Monsieur *Nesmonde* in his Cruize, or Monsieur *Chateau Renault* in his Return to *Brest*.

Vice-Ad-
miral
Mitchell
detached
with a
Squadron.

The 21st of *July*, 1697, the Fleet was 10 Leagues off of the *Lizard*, and had meet nothing in the Cruize but Privateers. The Admiral received Orders to leave a sufficient Squadron off

of *Brest*, to keep in the *French* Ships designed from thence with *Monfieur Chateau Renault*, if not failed, or to intercept them coming out : But this could not be complied with, because there was not in a Body above eleven *English* Men of War, of which ten were three Deck Ships, and but ten *Dutch*, Flagships included ; nor had they more than 21 days Provisions at short Allowance, and no Pease or Oatmeal ; so that they were obliged to return to *Torbay*, where, on the 23d of *July*, the Admiral received a second Order to send Ships off of *Brest*, and others into the Bay ; to comply with which he ordered 11 Third Rates, and two Fireships, to be victualled for a Month ; but was constrained to drain the great Ships for the same : Inasmuch that had there been never so pressing an Occasion of Service, it would inevitably have been prevented, for want of a timely Supply of Provisions.

*The Fleet
returns to
Torbay.*

*Vice-Ad-
miral
Mitchell
returns to
Torbay.*

Two days after Vice-Admiral *Mitchell* appeared working into the Bay ; but he had sent from his Squadron two Third Rates, and a Fifth, to convoy the Trade to *Ireland*, and the *Dorsetshire* and *Content* to see some others safe to *Plimouth* : And having received Ad-

vice

vice that a considerable Fleet of Merchant Ships was expected in the Channel, he sent four Third Rates, one Fifth, and a Fireship, under Command of Captain *Harlow*, to cruize for their Security; who, during his said Cruize, met with Monsieur *Ponty* in his passage to *Brest*, of whose Engagement I have already given an Account; and chose so to do, that the whole Proceedings of that *French* Squadron, in their Expedition to and from *Carthagera*, might lie before you entire.

The Admiral found that by drawing Provisions from the great Ships for those designed to *Brest*, it would so much reduce them, as that, without a speedy supply, they might be brought to great Necessity, and therefore he contradicted the Orders he had given therein, and proposed to the Lords of the Admiralty that the Squadron might repair to, and Victual at *Spithead*.

Nevertheless a Squadron was sent out, and cruiz'd for some time in the Soundings, but were by bad Weather forced in; and according to the Orders which were sent to the Admiral, he sail'd from *Torbay*, and arrived at *Spit-*
head the 28th of *August*, with five First Rates, four Seconds, two Thirds, two Fireships, two Hospital Ships, and two
The Fleet comes to Spithead

Yachts, together with 12 *Dutch* Ships of War, and as many Fireships.

Vice-Admiral Mitchell order'd with a Squadron as far as Cape St. Vincent to look out for Vice-Admiral Nevil.

Vice-Admiral Mitchell was again appointed to Command a Squadron of 8 Third Rates, 6 Fourths, and 3 Fifths, together with Count *Nassau*, with 6 *Dutch* Ships of War and two Fireships, and received Orders in *Torbay* the 9th of *September*, 1697, (the very Day he arrived there) to proceed with the said Squadron to *Cape St. Vincent* in *Portugal*, there being advice that the *French* were gone or going to Sea. The design of his proceeding thus far, was to sustain *Vice-Admiral Nevil*, in case the *Galleons* should have come under his Protection, as well as the Trade from *Cadiz*. Wherefore, when he arrived off of that Cape, he was ordered to send a Ship to the said Port, with Directions to the Commander in Chief of the Ships there, to put to Sea within three Days after his receipt of such Directions, and join him; and when so join'd, he was to make the best of his way to *England*; but in case he met with the *Cadiz* Fleet in his passage, he was to return with them; and to do the same without them, if he received advice by the *Frigat* that they were sailed from *Cadiz*, and he judg'd they were pass'd by him. But if, during his stay off
Cape

Cape *St. Vincent*, he met with Vice-Admiral *Nevil* in his passage from the *West-Indies*, with the Galleons, he was to accompany them as far as *Cadiz*: And a farther Provision was yet made, if he met with the Galleons while the *Cadiz* Squadron was with him; for, in that case, he was so to dispose of the Ships under his Command, as might most contribute to the Security of both; but himself was to return to *England* with the Trade.

These Orders the Vice-Admiral communicated to Rear-Admiral *Nassau*, who having at that time none from the King, and being not Victualled longer than to the last of the following Month, could not proceed; nor had the *English* Ships more than for two Months, if all Species proved good: And indeed the Scarcity of Provisions did too often, throughout the whole Course of the War, obstruct many Services. But as I shall not take upon me to blame any particular Person, or Body of Men, on on this Account; yet sure I am, That unless effectual care be taken another War, to have a sufficient stock of Provisions in a constant Readiness to answer all unforeseen Occasions of Service, we shall sufficiently, and perhaps too soon, find the great Inconveniencies that will attend it. This

The Squadron in great want of Provisions, especially the Dutch.

The Vice-Admiral is ordered to proceed so far towards Cape St. Vincent as to have Provisions to bring him back again.

His own and the Dutch Flag's Resolution thereupon

This Scarcity of Provisions being represented to the Lords of the Admiralty, their Lordships sent him Orders to proceed with the *English* and *Dutch* Ships, so far towards Cape St. Vincent, in order to meet the Trade from *Cadiz*, as that he might have Provisions left sufficient to bring him back again; upon which it was agreed, by himself and the *Dutch* Flag Officer, to sail 100 Leagues S. W. from *Scilly*, provided it could be accomplished by the First of *October*, for no longer would the Victuals on board the *Dutch* Ships permit them to stay abroad: But if Westerly Winds prevented their reaching the aforesaid Station, by or before that time, it was thought most adviseable to proceed 50 Leagues S. W. from *Scilly*, and to continue there till the 8th of *October*; and failing in that, to repair 28 Leagues W. S. W. and after lying in that Station till the 15th of *October*, to rendezvous at *Spithead*.

He receives advice of Vice-Admiral Nevil.

The 17th, the Vice-Admiral received Advice from the Captain of the *Shrewsbury* Galley, that Vice-Admiral *Nevil* had been at, and was returned from the *Havana* without the Galleons, or being admitted by the *Spanish* Governor; so much as to Water his Ships there; but having already given a particular

Account of that whole Matter, I proceed to inform you, that notwithstanding the aforegoing Orders from the Lords of the Admiralty to Vice-Admiral *Mitchell*, others were sent to him the 18th Day of the same Month of *August*, to remain no longer at Sea than 20 Days, in expectation of the *Cadiz* Fleet; and thereupon it was agreed between him and the *Dutch* Flag, that the Squadron should proceed 40 Leagues W. by S. from *Scilly*, and remain there till the 8th of *October*.

He is order'd to stay at Sea but 20 Days.

The 24th of *September* he sailed from *Torbay*, with fair Weather, and the Wind at N. W. by N, but being off of the *Start* about 10 at Night, it shifted to S. and S. S. W, and blew hard with much Rain. He was at this time near the Shore, and consequently met with much difficulty to get into *Torbay*, and most of the Ships received considerable Damage in their Sails. The next Day he received Orders to remain there, but the 9th of *October* others were sent him by Express, by which he was directed to proceed to Sea, either with or without the Ships of the States General, for protecting the *Cadiz* Fleet, and to continue out so long as his Provisions would last, which it would not do above 28 Days, at two Thirds of the usual Allowance.

Is oblig'd to come to Torbay, but order'd to Sea again.

These

These Orders were occasion'd upon advice of Monsieur *Chateau Renault's* being at Sea with a Squadron, and that divers Privateers were lurking up and down the Chanel to pick up our Trade.

Vice-Admiral Mitchell proceeds into the Soundings.

The 10th of *October*, 1697, the Squadron got under Sail, and the 15th at Night, about 25 Leagues N.E. by E. from *Scilly*, the Vice-Admiral parted with the *Captain*, and a *Dutch East-India* Ship called the *Nassau*, and some small Vessels bound Southward. He continued to cruize from 25 to 40 Leagues S. W. by W. from *Scilly* till the 23d, but had not the good Fortune to meet with the *Cadiz* Fleet; so that his Provisions growing short, he thought it necessary to repair to *St. Hellens*, where he Anchored the 27th at Night, and luckily there met him, and came in his Company, 15 *Dutch East-India* Ships which had spent almost all their Provisions, and lost most of their Anchors and Cables off of *Cape Bana Esperansa*. Soon after this the Vice-Admiral proceeded to *Holland*, with a Squadron to attend the Czar of *Muscovy*, and, by His Majesty's particular Commands, accompany'd that Prince, during the time he continued in this Kingdom, and then carried him back to *Holland*.

The Czar of Muscovy comes to England

I come

I come now to Rear-Admiral *Benbow*, who sailed from the *Spithead* the 10th of *April* with 7 Third Rates and two Fire-ships, and having cruized 27 Days between the Latitudes of 50, and 48 and 30, from 10 to 80 Leagues, from *Scilly*, met with nothing of Note till the third of *May*, and then he gave Chase to 5 *French* Men of War, but found himself not able to come up with them. The next day he was joined by three Third Rates, one Fourth, and one Fifth, but nothing remarkable happened till the 9th, when he saw 9 Ships Westward of him, one whereof separated from the rest, and to her he gave chase; the rest made *English* Signals, and some of them proved to be our Men of War that were bound with the Trade to the *West-Indies*, which, under Command of Captain *Symonds*, had been engaged with four of the *French* King's Ships in the manner following. Being on the 5th of *May*, 1697, with the *Normich*, *Chatham*, *Sheerness*, *Seaford*, and a Fireship, in the Latitude of 49 and 13, about 48 Leagues from *Scilly*, he met four *French* Ships about four in the Morning with *English* Colours, the biggest between 60 and 70 Guns, another of 50, the third 36, and the fourth about 24. They stood right down on him,

Rear-Admiral Benbow is sent in to the Soundings.

An Engagement between a Squadron commanded by Captain Symonds and the French.

him, and thereupon he fired a Gun for the *Seaford*, Fireship, and his Convoys, that were to Windward, to join him, and at 7 the *French* struck their *Engliff* Colours, and began to fire upon our Ships. The Fireship, by reason of her ill sailing, was taken by the two smaller Frigats and their Boats, and the two bigger took the *Seaford*, after they had first shot down her Main-yard, and then her Main-mast; but finding her not able to swim, they burnt her. The Fight continued very smartly for two hours, and then the *French* gave over, but followed our Ships till the 8th, tho' not within Gun-shot. That Morning they bore down again, and engaged about three hours, and then left off, and chased those Merchant Ships that, at the beginning of the Engagement, were taking the usual Care for their own Security, and our Frigats were so much disabled, that they were forced to bear up for *Plimouth* to refit.

The Rear-Admiral comes in for want of Provisions.

The Rear-Admiral endeavoured to intercept the Enemy, but having not above 12 Days Provisions at short Allowance, he was constrained to repair to *Portsmouth* for a Recruit, not being able to reach *Plimouth*, by reason he chased a Number of Ships to the Eastward of that Port, which proved to be

Svedes

Swedes from *Lisbon*. After he had supplied himself with Provisions, he received Orders from Vice-Admiral *Mitchell* the 21st of *May*, 1697, to proceed again into the *Soundings* with four Third Rates and two Fireships; but they were Victualled for no longer than a Month at short Allowance. From *Plimouth* he was to take the *Anglesey* and *Plimouth*, if ready, and to see three *East-India* Ships well into the Sea. The 24th he sailed from *St. Hellens*, and the 26th in the Morning arrived off of *Plimouth*, where he left Orders for the two Ships beforemention'd to follow him, and took the *Medway* with him. His Cruizing Station was from 10 to 100 Leagues West from *Scilly*, and the general Rendezvous 40 Leagues W. S. W. from thence. He lay till the 5th of *June* between the Latitudes of 50 and 49, about 30 Leagues West of *Scilly*; but being then driven far in, he sent the *Kent* to *Plimouth*, and the Fireship in her Company, the former having sprung her Fore-mast, and was so leaky that one Pump would hardly free her. However, the Weather being more moderate, he proceeded with the three Third Rates 120 Leagues Westward of *Scilly*, and then seeing no Ships of the Enemy, he parted with those bound to *India*

Rear-Admiral Benbow returns into the Soundings.

dia on the 8th of *June*, in the Latitude of 50, the Wind at N.W; and believing (since three Days before the Wind had been Southerly) that the *Virginia* Fleet were gone for *Cape Clear*, or some part of the Coast of *Ireland*, he stood over thither, but soon after hearing they were not arrived, stretched out to Sea again, and met with a Ship that parted from them in the Latitude of 49° 30' the 10th of this Month, about 250 Leagues from the Land.

This Intelligence, and the shortness of his Provisions, induced him to repair towards *Plimouth*, and in his way he had the good fortune to join the *Virginia* and *West-India* Fleets, and their particular Convoys off of the *Lizard*; and soon after meeting Vice-Admiral *Mitchell* off of the *Start*, he was by him directed to repair to *Plimouth* with the Merchant Ships, where he received Orders from Sir *George Rooke* to repair to the Fleet then passing Westward, and to take care for sending Eastward a Convoy with the Trade; but these Orders were contradicted by others from the Lords of the Admiralty, dated the 10th of *July*, and he, in Obedience to them, proceeded to the Squadron before *Dunkirk*, which Capt. *Beaumont* had commanded a considerable time before, consisting

Rear-
Admiral
Benbow
brings in
the Vir-
ginia and
West-
India
Fleets.

sisting of six Third Rates, besides the *Newark*, two Fourths, one Fifth, and two Fireships; but three of those Third Rates were called off to the *Downes* by the Lords of the Admiralty.

No sooner was he arrived in the Squadron, but he went in his Boat before the Pier-Heads of *Dunkirk*, but found not one Ship in the Road, tho' he discovered 15 or 16 tall Ships within, and one of them with a Flag at the Fore-top-mast-head.

Rear-Admiral Benbow arrives off of Dunkirk.

With Captain *Beaumont* he found two Orders from the Lords of the Admiralty, the one to pursue Monsieur *Du Bart*, and to destroy his Ships at any Place whatever, except under Command of the Forts in *Norway* or *Sweden*; and the other to obey His Majesty's Commands, which the Admiralty directed him to do, in Obedience to the Orders they receiv'd from his Majesty to that purpose.

The 30th of July, 1697, Rear-Admiral *Vandergoes* join'd him with 11 Dutch Ships; and it was propos'd that one of the Squadrons should lie so as that *Dunkirk* might be South of them, and the other in, or near *Ostend* Road, that if *Du Bart* should attempt to pass out, either at the North or East Chancel, they might the better discover him;

Some Dutch Ships join ours off of Dunkirk.

but no other Answer was made by the *Dutch* Flag, than that his Ships were foul, and not in a Condition to pursue him.

*The Force
of the
French
Ships at
Dun-
kirk.*

The *French* Ships at *Dunkirk* were in all 11, from 52 to 26 Guns, and about the beginning of *August*, they were all, except Monsieur *Du Bart*'s own Ship, hawled into the Basin to clean; so that it was judged they were making ready to come out the next Spring Tide: But since our Ships, as well as the *Dutch*, were all foul, little Service could be expected from their Chasing; and it was almost next to an Impossibility to block up clean Ships at *Dunkirk* with foul ones. Wherefore the Rear-Admiral propos'd that four of his best Sailers might be order'd to *Sheerness* to clean, and that the others might come to the *Downes*, not only to take in Water, which they very much wanted, but to heel and scrub; and this he judged might be done, before the approaching Spring would have given the *French* opportunity of getting over the Bar: But at this very time it was not thought advisable, tho' afterwards he received Orders to do it; so that at the present he only sent the Ships from time to time to the *Downes* to Water, as they could best be spared.

The

The 17th of *August*, 1697, the Rear-Admiral observed five clean Ships ready to sail out of *Dunkirk*, and believing they would push through the East Chanel, he shifted his Station, and lay between *Ostend* and *Newport*, and gave notice thereof to the *Dutch*; but nothing remarkable happened till the 23d, when, at Five in the Morning, he discover'd five Sail Eastward of him, *Newport* then bearing South, distant about five Leagues; upon which he immediately made the Signal for Chasing, the Wind being at S.W. and the *French* steering away N.E. but finding they wronged him very much he brought to at Four in the Afternoon. The smaller Ships indeed, namely, the *Dragon*, *Falmouth*, *Romney*, and *Adventure*, kept on till about Six, and took a *Dunkirk* Privateer of 10 Guns and 60 Men, that had been cruizing in the North Seas two Months.

Some of the French Ships were out of Dunkirk.

After this, the Rear-Admiral endeavoured to regain his Station; but the 25th at Night he was obliged to anchor about five Leagues West from the *Gallopers*, the Wind blowing hard at S.W. There he continued till Eight the next Morning, and then saw eight Sail about 5 Leagues off, standing Eastward, and two more Southward, the

latter proving to be the *Romney*, and a Flyboat she had retaken; the others he pursued, but could get no Account of them.

*A short
Observa-
tion upon
the Whole.*

Thus ended this Long and Chargeable War; for little or nothing remarkable happen'd afterwards, Peace being proclaim'd the 18th Day of *October*; and the Whole may be briefly summ'd up thus; That although the *French* did, at the beginning of the War, get more early to Sea, and with greater Strength than we did; (I mean than what we had in a Body) particularly in the Actions that happen'd at *Bantry* and *Beachy*, when the Fleet was under the Command of the Earl of *Torrington*; yet when our Affairs came to be better settled, and that both we, and the *Dutch*, did take the Necessary and timely Care to be early and strong at Sea; the Enemy did not, more than once afterwards during the whole War, dare to look us in the Face; and even that once, was when the Court of *France* thought themselves secure of destroying two Squadrons of our Ships on their own Coast, Commanded by Sir *Ralph Delawall* and Rear-Admiral *Carter*, before the bigger Ships could possibly join them. 'Twas that which

ceca-

occasion'd positive Orders to Monsieur *Tourville* their Admiral, and it was those Orders which obliged him to Engage, though he found our whole Force to be join'd. But from that very time (as they did the preceding Year) they made it their business to avoid meeting us at Sea, though they had, the Year before the said Engagemēt, all the Strength, in a Body, that possibly they could equip. Finding therefore that they could not, with the hopes of Success, attempt any thing on our Fleet, they suffered themselves to be insulted; their Towns to be bombarded; and the *Spaniard* to be relieved by our Forces in the *Mediterranean*, contenting themselves (as I doubt they will on other like occasions do) with putting the Crown of *England*, and the States-General, to a very great Expence yearly, in setting forth Great Fleets, while they, with their cruizing Frigats and numerous Privateers, made their utmost Efforts in the intercepting our Trade, which being not only almost as great as in time of Peace, but very rich also, was a sufficient Bait to invite the Equipment of great Numbers of private Ships for such an Enterprize; whereas their little Commerce, especially in these Parts of the World, was hardly worth
the

the while to look after. In this they were but too successful, though I may venture to say, that had the Masters who were intrusted by the Merchants, been more careful to have taken the provided Convoys, or, when under the Protection of such Convoy, more diligent in keeping Company with them, (many Instances whereof I am able to give to the contrary) the Enemy would, in a very great Measure, have miss'd of their aim in this Particular.

As for the Losses that *England* and *France* sustain'd during the whole War, in the Ships of their Royal Navies, it will have a much better Face on our side than that of the Trade ; for having collected the same, with as much Exactness as possibly I could, the Reader may find in the following Account, the one and the other compared ; by which it will appear, that the Enemy (considering the Magnitude of the Ships) were much greater Sufferers than we.

An Account of the Ships taken from us by the French, during the War, and what were burnt, and took from them, viz.

Englisb.

No. of Ships.	of	Guns each.	Total.
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1	of	70—	70
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1	of	54—	54
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2	of	48—	96
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1	of	46—	46
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3	of	42—	126
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3	of	36—	108
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6	of	32—	192
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2	of	30—	60
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4	of	24—	96
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2	of	18—	36
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2	of	16—	32
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2	of	12—	24
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11	of	10—	110
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5	of	8—	40
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1	of	6—	6
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4	of	4—	16
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Total—50

~~456~~
Total 1112

French.

French.

No. of Ships.		Guns each.	Total,
2	of	104	208
1	of	90	90
2	of	80	160
3	of	76	228
1	of	74	74
1	of	70	70
1	of	68	68
2	of	60	120
4	of	56	224
1	of	50	50
1	of	48	48
1	of	42	42
1	of	40	40
5	of	32	160
5	of	30	150
5	of	28	140
1	of	26	26
3	of	24	72
3	of	20	60
6	of	18	108
1	of	16	16
2	of	12	24
6	of	10	60
1	of	6	6

Total—59

Total 2244

Number of Guns on board the *French* Ships, more than in the *English*, 1132, and most of them much Superior in their Quality.

F I N I S.

